

U.S. public schools are going broke

Yet some spend like a kid in a candy store

Read Next page

Happy New Year



On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:582-7800 Tuesday, December 28, 2010

Iran corruption claims stoke political infighting

BRIAN MURPHY

Associated Press

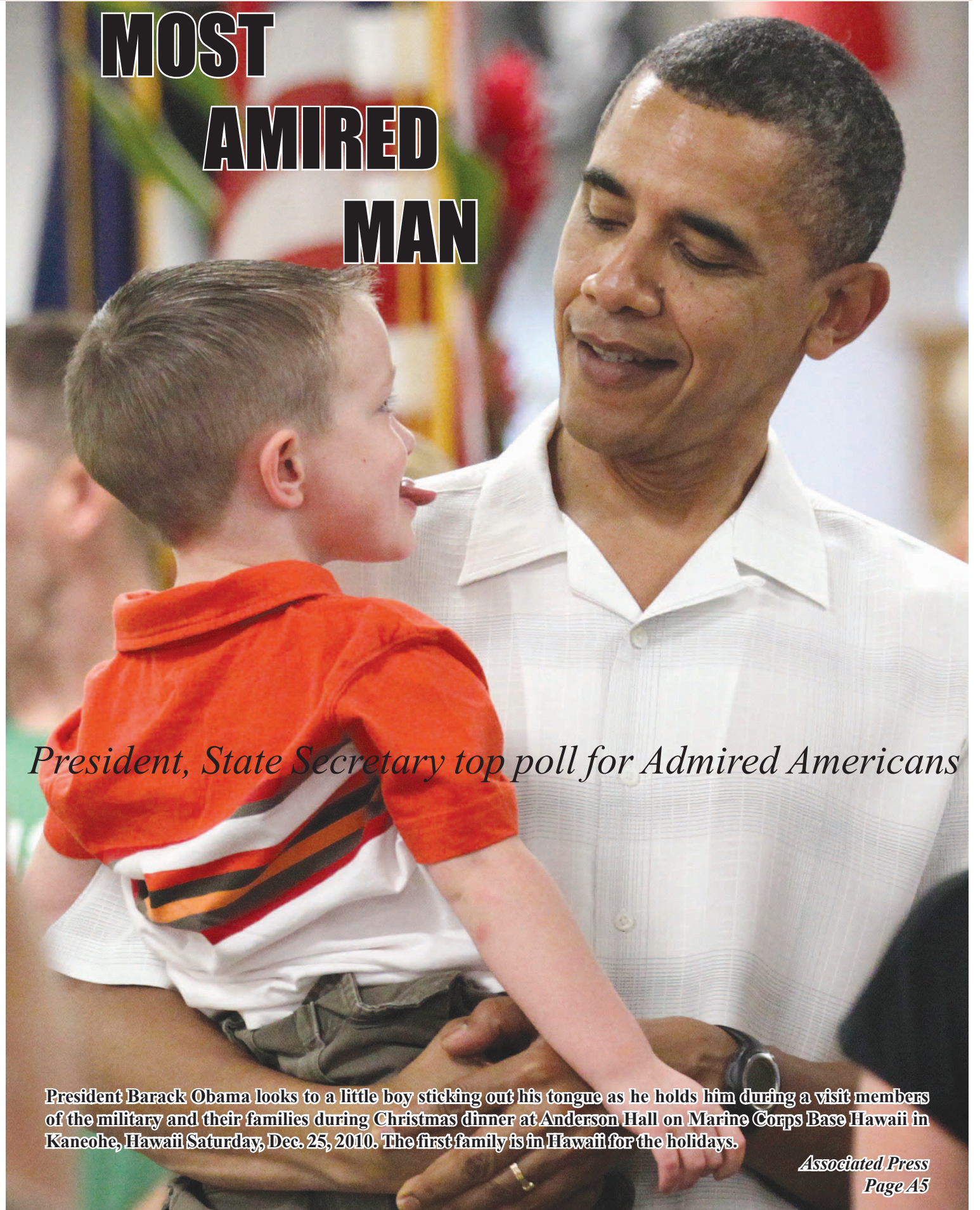
DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Corruption charges against one of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's most trusted political advisers provided the latest evidence of deep rifts within the Iranian president's own conservative political camp. The challenge by Ahmadinejad's rivals — one of them the head of the judiciary — could set the tone for a bitter fight leading up to the next big political moment in Iran, parliamentary elections less than a year away.

"This case isn't going to bring down Ahmadinejad, but it may get very ugly," said Abdulkhaleq Abdulla, a regional political analyst at Emirates University. "It's a commentary on the troubled state of Iranian politics at the moment."

Ahmadinejad has faced a growing internal backlash from conservative leaders — including influential parliament speaker Ali Larijani. They are upset by the president's combative nature and deepening links with the vast military-economic network run by the Revolutionary Guard, Iran's most powerful force which led the crackdown on the reformist movement after Ahmadinejad's disputed re-election last year.

Continued on Page A14

MOST AMIRED MAN



President, State Secretary top poll for Admired Americans

President Barack Obama looks to a little boy sticking out his tongue as he holds him during a visit members of the military and their families during Christmas dinner at Anderson Hall on Marine Corps Base Hawaii in Kaneohe, Hawaii Saturday, Dec. 25, 2010. The first family is in Hawaii for the holidays.

Associated Press
Page A5

US public schools are going broke,

yet some spend like a kid in a candy store



Los Angeles – Faced with the need to make drastic cuts to avoid looming budget holes as federal stimulus money runs out, school districts across the country are resorting to once-unthinkable solutions. Officials are turning to desperate measures to save the jobs of teachers, whose livelihoods were long considered secure. In Boston, the superintendent has chosen to close nine schools and merge eight others into four buildings in light of a potential \$63 million

shortfall next year. School officials in Camp Hill, Pa., are so eager to raise funds that they've offered to sell naming rights to their gyms (\$250,000 each), the library (\$150,000), and even the counseling office (\$15,000). Persistent achievement gap vexes education reformers: Six takeaways New studies indicate that thousands of other school districts will be forced to follow suit unless there is another federal infusion of cash. This is troubling because it sends a

clear message to children that everything is for sale. Didn't save for a rainy day Yet states have to assume their share of responsibility for the way they've used the \$100 billion in federal stimulus funds they received soon after President Obama took office. Most of the money " \$40 billion " was directed at shoring up the balance sheets of state education systems. The rest supported Title I funding for poor students, programs for disabled students, and smaller programs like the Obama administration's Race to the Top contest. But according to a 50-state survey conducted by the National Conference of State Legislatures and reported in The New York Times, 20 states said they intended from the very outset to spend all of their stabilization funds in the 2008-09 and 2009-10 school years. On average, all 50 states spent 86 percent of the federal stimulus money in the past two years, leaving just

14 percent for this year. Such short-sighted budgeting in the midst of the Great Recession is hard to defend. Whatever sympathy might be felt for schools in these hard times was further dampened by jaw-dropping examples of profligacy in other districts. The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), the nation's second largest, serves as a case study of how to undermine taxpayer confidence when it is desperately needed. The district spent \$578 million or about \$135,000 per student to construct the Robert F. Kennedy Community Schools complex on the site of the former Ambassador Hotel. This amount made the project the most expensive school ever constructed in US history at a time when the district is flat broke. (Indeed, just last week, the LAUSD school board voted unanimously to seek corporate sponsorships to pay for school programs like sports, music, and art.)

Although the LAUSD committed to this project before the enormity of the recession became apparent, the Kennedy complex is only the latest in the district's building binge of 131 schools. It calls into question the way taxpayer money is spent. For example, The Wall Street Journal noted that another recently opened public school the Visual and Performing Arts High School was originally budgeted at \$70 million. It ended up costing \$232 million. Nevertheless, voters in L.A. continue to approve such spending, in the process becoming enablers. Indeed, since 1997, they have OK'd more than \$20 billion in school bonds. The only hard evidence of discontent is the support taxpayers have given to the establishment of charter schools. The LAUSD has more charter schools than any other school system in the country, enrolling about 9 percent of its students. Strictly from a financial viewpoint, charter schools are, without question, a bargain. They can be constructed for a quarter of the cost of most schools in the district. Charter schools: great bang for the buck For example, Green Dot Public Schools, a leading charter school operator in the L.A. area, has built seven schools there to serve 4,300 mainly low-income students for a total of less than \$85 million. Its graduation rate is nearly twice that of the school district as a whole. It's true that charter schools don't have to enroll special education students. But there's another factor given short shrift in the debate. Under Proposition 39, which was passed by California voters in 2000, districts are obligated to provide charter schools with facilities that are reasonably equivalent to those of other schools in the district. About 60,000 students in the LAUSD attend charter schools. □

New Year's Eve Party

In the Jungle

We will swing you away to a wildlife experience around nature, greens and exotic animals as you celebrate another new year at the Renaissance Convention Center. Package includes dinner buffet, super premium open bar, live entertainment, champagne toast and a fireworks show at midnight.

Date: Friday December 31st, 2010
Time: 8pm-1am
Price: \$160 per adult
Children 5-12 years \$45
Prices include 18% service charge

For reservations please call: 523-6404 or 523-6405

RENAISSANCE[®]
CONVENTION CENTER



SUNSET GRILLE
seafood and chops

Prime Steak Prime View

Chef's Special

16 oz. USDA Prime Dry-Aged Cowboy Steak

All sides extra! • Nightly 6 - 11 p.m.

Aruba's only AAA Four-Diamond Steakhouse
VOTED #1 in the Caribbean

SunserGrillAruba.com • Call.: +297 526 6640



Dinner served 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Monday Closed

DIFFERENT THEME NIGHT, EVERY NIGHT!

TUESDAY'S

CARIBBEAN FEAST • BEST VALUE FOR MONEY!

Local Caribbean Night, serving sautéed Creole Garlic Shrimp and fresh Creole Red Snapper with sweet plantain, with other Aruban favorites such as Keshi Yena and Beef Stoba accompanied by a Gourmet Salad Bar, Peel N Eat Shrimp, Hand Rolled Sushi, Cold Cuts & Cheeses, Aruban Fish Soup.
Home Made Pastries & Cakes

WEDNESDAY'S

NOCHE ITALIANO

Enjoy the rich flavors of Italy at our mix & match interactive pasta station, paired with mouthwatering specialties such as: Breaded Grouper Fingers, tartar sauce, Roasted Leg of Lamb, Chicken with Italian olive & tomato relish accompanied by a Gourmet Salad Bar, Peel N Eat Shrimp, Hand Rolled Sushi, Italian Cold Cuts & Cheeses and famous Minestrone Soup
Home Made Pastries & Cakes

Just \$23.95 p.p / kids \$6.95. For reservations call 526 6612 or 5266 613

GREAT VALUE • AWARD WINNING CUISINE • GENUINE HOSPITALITY • TROPICAL AMBIANCE



More farmers' markets expand to year-round

PLYMOUTH, Mass. — A steady stream of customers filled baskets and shopping bags with vegetables, cranberries, cheese, fresh-baked breads and pies while chatting with the dozen or so farmers selling goods in the visitor's center of a local museum. It was a bitterly cold, gray December day, but for many, it felt just right for the farmers' market as live music and a warm fireplace helped set a holiday mood. A growing number of farmers' markets are extending their operation into and through the winter months even in cold-weather states like Massachusetts. The expansion comes as more farmers are prolonging their growing seasons with greenhouses and other methods. It's also fueled by an increased number of people who aim to eat locally produced food year-round.

"It can't be a five-month-long thing and then just stop and everybody go to Walmart," said Dave Purpura, a farmer who participates in the winter market at Plimoth Plantation, a living history museum dedicated to the Pilgrims. "If you want to be serious about promoting the local food economy, you have to go through the winter." Purpura planted some vegetables late in the season specifically for sale at the

winter market. Nearby, Donna Blischke sold potatoes, onions and squash that she stores in a root cellar at her small organic farm in Carver. The winter market also gives her a chance to sell jams, jellies and sauces made from produce left over from the fall harvest.

"It's a way to earn a little extra money in the winter months, while still providing local foods," Blischke said. There are at least 898 winter farmers' markets running nationwide, a 17 percent increase from two years ago, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A winter market is defined as one that operates between November and March. Winter markets often run less frequently than their summer counterparts; the Plymouth Farmers Market, for example, runs weekly from June through October and monthly from December through March.

Perhaps surprisingly, several northern states are among those with the largest numbers of winter markets, including Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Jersey, Connecticut and Michigan, the USDA said. Chicago's Green City Market expanded to year-round operations three years ago and draws an estimated 60,000 visitors during the

winter months, said Lyle Allen, the market's executive director. He recalled his anxiety before the first January opening.

"It was 2 degrees and the wind chill was 40 below," Allen said. "I was worried. We were concerned about what kind of reaction we were going to get from the general public."

But his fears evaporated when he showed up at the museum where some 35 to 40 farmers set up shop twice a month in the winter.

"There were a thousand people waiting to get in," he said.

The trend toward year-round markets fits in with overall growth in farmers' markets. The number nationwide grew 16 percent from 2009 to more than 6,100 nationwide this year, according to the USDA's 2010 farmers' market directory. Many markets have been reporting record sales in recent years.

Year-round markets tend to do better. A USDA survey found markets that operated for more than seven months in a year had three times the amount of sales revenue per month and twice as many customers per week as those that didn't.

Stacy Miller, executive director of the Farmers Market Coalition, a Maryland-based group that promotes farmers'

markets nationwide, said that makes sense.

"If you open up in May and shut down in October, every May it's 'OK everybody . . . remember farmers' markets?' Having some continuous presence over the winter helps mitigate that," Miller said.

The markets encourage farmers to try a variety of ways to extend their seasons, she said. Growers combine old techniques, such as storing vegetables in root cellars, with new ones like hoop houses, which use plastic or some other material to trap warmth from the sun and protect plants from frost.

Many shoppers at Plimoth Plantation welcomed the

opportunity to have a farmers' market in the winter.

"I love it," said Joyce Malaguti, a yoga instructor from Plymouth. "My purpose is to support the local farmers and the good food, as much as I can."

But some farmers see a downside to year-round markets. After an exhausting growing season, some said they look forward to a break during the winter to rest and plan for the next year.

Weston Lant, who owns an organic farm in Rochester, Mass., expected to sell off the last of his green vegetables at the December market in Plymouth and wasn't sure whether he would return in January or February. □

hunkemöller

2010 countdown SALE

DECEMBER	-29-	50% 10.00AM - 9.00PM
DECEMBER	-30-	40% 10.00AM - 7.00PM
DECEMBER	-31-	30% 10.00AM - 1.00PM

Paseo Herencia Mall

"FAVI FUNDACION CU VISION"

New York hard hit as winter storm slams northeast



NEW YORK— A blizzard pummeled the northeastern United States on Monday, dumping up to 29 inches of snow, disrupting air and rail travel and challenging motorists with blowing snow and icy roads at the end of the busy Christmas weekend. New York City and surrounding areas were the hardest hit by the storm, which blew up the Atlantic Coast on Sunday night and continued up to the Monday morning commute, unleashing powerful winds and grounding cities to a halt. New York's three major airports, shut on Sunday night after at least 2,000 flights were canceled, were due to reopen at 4 p.m. (2100 GMT). Many offices just closed for business, including the United Nations, which canceled all events at its headquarters. Trade on the New York Stock

Exchange opened promptly at 9:30 a.m. (1430 GMT) and the U.S. Treasury Department said auctions of three- and six-month bills and of two-year notes would proceed as scheduled. After 17 hours of snowfall dropped 20 inches on New York's Central Park, the city was covered in snow -- knee deep in many areas with giant piles on the sidewalks where snow plows cleared the streets. Some motorists who were able to dig their cars out from the snow were left spinning their wheels on unplowed streets. "I've never seen anything like this," said John Harris of New Rochelle, New York, after getting out of a taxi in the city. "Normally it takes me about 20 to 30 minutes to drive to work but I was stuck in traffic for almost two hours before I decided to just get off at the nearest

exit and get on a train. Then I find out there's no Metro-North (commuter) trains moving so I end up shelling out around \$40 to take a cab to work." Trading on the New York Stock Exchange was thinned by the storm, which also kept shoppers away from the malls on the day after Christmas, the final act of the holiday shopping season. "If desks were down 30 percent, 40 percent anyway (between Christmas and the New Year), they are probably down even more today," said David Ader, head of government bond strategy at CRT Capital

in Stamford, Connecticut. "Today, what do we have? We have nothing." Snow drifts dropped 3 to 5 feet on north-facing structures thanks to winds of up to 49 mph, NY1 television said. Skies started clearing just before the morning commute, providing ideal play conditions and an extra treat for children who either had class canceled or were on holiday from school. But there was no fun for thousands of people stranded in the airports. At Philadelphia International Airport, some 1,200 stuck passengers were given pillows, blankets, water,

juice and diapers. **SUBWAY SERVICE DISRUPTED** New York City subway traffic was sporadic and the Metro-North and Long Island Rail Road commuter rails connecting the city to the suburbs were suspended. One New York subway train was stuck on a frozen track for several hours before the passengers were rescued. Amtrak passenger rail service between New York and Boston was suspended on Sunday night but resumed with a limited schedule on Monday morning. □

'Octomom' faces eviction from Southern Calif. Home

LOS ANGELES – The man who sold his Southern California home to "Octomom" Nadya Suleman said Sunday that he's going ahead with eviction proceedings because she hasn't made a long overdue \$450,000 payment. Amer Haddadin said he'll evict Suleman if she and her lawyer Jeff Czech don't pay the balance on the house by Friday. A balloon payment was due Oct. 9. "I think they have money, but they are hiding the money," Haddadin said. Suleman and Czech were served notice on Dec. 2 by mail and by hand, Haddadin said. He expects the eviction to be speedy. Suleman and her 14 children have lived in the 4-bedroom house for nearly two years, ever since she brought her octuplets home to the quiet cul-de-sac in La Habra, about 25 miles east of Los Angeles. Her father purchased the home for \$565,000, including a \$130,000 down payment.

Suleman's father, Ed Doud, cut a deal with Haddadin for the house because a traditional bank loan wasn't available to Suleman, who is unmarried and unemployed. She previously lived with her mother in a small Whittier home before that house was foreclosed on. In April, Haddadin granted a 6-month extension on the remaining balance, and says that as a Jordanian, he took pity on a fellow Arab in a tough spot, and pledged to help Doud, who is Palestinian. Haddadin said Czech and Suleman became joint owners of the house in August, after her father transferred the deed from his name. Reached by phone Sunday, Czech said he had no immediate comment except that Suleman has been making \$4,000 payments every month. Suleman already had six small children before giving birth to the octuplets. All 14 children were conceived through in vitro fertilization. □



LOCATED AT THE HOLIDAY INN

Black Jack, Craps, 3 Card Poker, Caribbean Stud Poker, Slots and daily Bingos!!!
Only Casino in Aruba
Where dealer stands on Soft 17

SPORTS BOOK

No charge or tax on winnings

Live simulcast of all major tracks
Highest limits in Aruba

POKER ROOM

Tournaments

Mondays & Tuesdays at 6:30 PM \$10
Wednesdays & Thursdays at 6:30 PM \$25
Fridays at 7:00 PM \$50
Saturdays at 7:00 PM Freeze out \$150
Sundays at 7:00 PM Freeze out \$100

(Tournaments are subject to charge as per Management criteria)
Lady Luck is waiting for you at Excelsior Casino!!



THE BEST ON THE NET



CIT Caribbean Internet Television

Your gateway to the world of entertainment
also featuring:
Top Real Estate/Hotels/Apartments
Latinos por el mundo
Away from home
Tips for tourists

www.caribbeaninternettelevision.net



HAPPY HOUR

Daily 5 - 6pm

Special prices on Amstel Bright & Mojito's



J. E. Irausquin Blvd 79 at De Palm Pier • (297) 586 2233 • www.bugaloe.com • info@bugaloe.com • Open daily: 9am - 12am

Poll: Obama and Hillary Clinton are 'most admired'

WASHINGTON (AP) — For the third straight year, President Barack Obama ranks as the man most admired by people living in the U.S., according to an annual USA Today-Gallup poll.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is the most-admired woman for the ninth year in a row, edging out former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin and TV host Oprah Winfrey, as she did last year.

The poll, released Monday, asked respondents what man and woman, living anywhere in the world, they most admired. Rankings from one to 10 were based on total mentions and reported in

percentages. Obama has been the poll's most-admired man since his election in 2008. With 22 percent choosing him, Obama leads his predecessors, George W. Bush, with 5 percent, and Bill Clinton, with 4 percent. However, Obama's percentage has fallen over the years. In 2008 he led the list with 32 percent and in 2009 with 30 percent.

Rounding out the top 10 most-admired men, with 2 percent or less: former South African President Nelson Mandela, computer tycoon Bill Gates, Pope Benedict XVI, the Rev. Billy Graham,



Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, keeps her fingers crossed as she comes to see the vote on the New START Treaty, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2010.

Associated Press

Why the Director of National Intelligence knew nothing of U.K. terror arrests

WASHINGTON, DC — When you are the Director of National Intelligence, it is generally presumed that you know things particularly about foreign affairs and matters of national security.

Hence the general dismay last week when DNI Gen.

James Clapper showed up to World News Tonight and appeared to know absolutely nothing about 12 arrests of suspected terrorists in London reported hours earlier on multiple cable news shows.

As Michael Shear put it for The New York Times, Clapper "is the person charged with coordinating what the nation knows about terrorism and national security."

Shouldn't we be concerned if he seems to know "less than even the casual television viewer"? Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Homeland

Security, says no.

On CNN this Sunday, she did damage control. The moment was embarrassing, she says, but Clapper came to the show directly from work on the New

START treaty.

Napolitano and others knew about the U.K. arrests (which were not tied to any threats over here), but Clapper hadn't yet been briefed



former President Jimmy Carter, talk-show host Glenn Beck and the Dalai Lama. Hillary Clinton has been the most-admired woman in the poll 15 times since 1992, when she first appeared following her husband's election as president. She leads this year with 17 percent, followed by Palin with 12 percent, Winfrey with 11 percent, and first lady Michelle Obama with 5 percent.

Rounding out the top most-admired women, with 2 percent or less:

former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Queen Elizabeth, actress Angelina Jolie, former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, and, in a three-way tie for ninth place, Burmese democracy advocate Aung San Suu Kyi and former first ladies Laura Bush and Barbara Bush.

The USA Today-Gallup survey, conducted Dec. 10-12, is based on telephone interviews with a random sample of 1,019 adults and has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points. □

Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano serves Menu Turistico

3 course dinner

\$19.95 p.p.

Open daily from:
5:30 - 11:00 p.m.

Giorgio's
Ristorante Italiano

A unique outdoor dining experience in the tropical garden at the poolside terrace. Enjoy tasteful salads, pastas, pizzas and seafood specialties, prepared with the freshest ingredients by Chef Giorgio.

Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa
Behind the Alhambra Casino

For reservations call: 582 3444
E-mail: giorgios@manchebo.com
www.manchebo.com

Fla. News tops nations strangest, again



TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — This year, Floridians learned that burials at sea don't work if the body doesn't sink, giant snail mucus can make you sick and that an underwire bra can stop a lawyer from visiting her client in prison. Florida lived up to its reputation for being an odd state in 2010, with residents committing stupid crimes, making poor decisions and

exhibiting general weirdness. There was the man pulled over in Manatee County who claimed the crack in his crack wasn't his. Officers found bags of marijuana and crack cocaine stuffed between the man's butt cheeks. He said the pot was his but "the white stuff is not mine." That was far from the only weird case handled by police. A 32-year-old Pasco County

man called 911 to complain his mother took his beer, while police in Deland said a man walked out of a bar and head-butted a street preacher who called him a sinner. A Pasco County man was charged with slashing his father with a knife during an argument over who would walk the dog. There were other strange dog stories. A man was walking his Jack Russell terrier in Tampa when an alligator snatched it. He pulled out his handgun and started shooting at the gator. It let go of the dog, but the pet wasn't breathing until the man performed CPR and revived it. Dogs weren't always the victim. A Hernando County man was run over by his own pickup truck after his dog jumped into the running vehicle and put it in gear. Threatening items that bomb squads had to handle this year included a box with two kittens in Cocoa and a stuffed pony in Orange County.

Authorities blew up the stuffed pony, but spared the kittens. A Melbourne street was shut down for three hours, the time it took the bomb squad to figure out the flashing object in the middle of the street was a restaurant pager. If that didn't make you lose your appetite, this might: Several people in Miami complained got sick after consuming mucus from a giant snail in a religious ceremony. 2010 wasn't the year to mess with the elderly. An 84-year-old man was arrested in Bay County for allegedly hitting a deputy with his cane. Would-be robbers knocked an 83-year-old man to the ground in Clearwater only to turn and run when the victim pulled a gun on them. A 69-year-old woman turned back a robber after picking up the gun he dropped in her car while smashing the windshield with it. He also dropped his cell phone and was caught.

Weirdness didn't just involve senior citizens: A Clay County woman was arrested after posting a photo of her baby with a bong on Facebook. Nor was odd news limited to the living. A family honoring a relative's dying wish gave him a burial at sea, only to have the body resurface off a Fort Lauderdale beach. A Tampa-area couple paid \$8 for a box of bones at a yard sale that they planned to use as Halloween decorations, until they got home and realized it was a real human skeleton. Finally, Florida has the kind of corrections officials that will make you rethink what you're wearing. A Miami attorney said she was kept from visiting her client at a federal detention center because the underwire of her bra set off the metal detector. After she took it off, she said guards wouldn't let her in because she was braless. □

Girl killed in Wyo. ski crash wore helmet

CASPER, Wyo. — A Wyoming coroner says a 5-year-old skier who died in a collision with a snowboarder was wearing a helmet, contrary to officials' earlier reports. Natrona County Coroner Connie Jacobson says the girl, Elise Johnson, and 22-year-old Craig Shirley died of internal injuries from blunt force trauma. Witnesses have said Shirley was snowboarding at high speed Friday at

Hogadon (HO'-guh-dun) Ski Area when he collided with Elise and her mother. The mother and daughter had stopped in the middle of the run, which is rated as difficult. The mother was hospitalized. Her name hasn't been released. The circumstances of the crash are still under investigation. Shirley's father told the Casper Star-Tribune that the run was covered in ice. □



Ceiling lights in Minn. send coded Internet data

ST. CLOUD, Minn. — Flickering ceiling lights are usually a nuisance, but in city offices in St. Cloud, they will actually be a pathway to the Internet. The lights will transmit data to specially equipped computers on desks below by flickering faster than the eye can see. Ultimately, the technique could ease wireless congestion by opening up new expressways for short-range communications. The first few light fixtures built by LVX System, a local startup, will be installed Wednesday in six municipal buildings in this city of 66,000 in the snowy farm fields of central Minnesota. The LVX system puts clusters of its light-emitting diodes, or LEDs, in a standard-sized light fixture. The LEDs transmit coded messages as a series of 1s and 0s in computer speak to special

modems attached to computers. A light on the modem talks back to the fixture overhead, where there is sensor to receive the return signal and transmit the data over the Internet. Those computers on the desks aren't connected to the Internet, except through these light signals, much as Wi-Fi allows people to connect wirelessly. LVX takes its name from the Latin word for light, but the underlying concept is older than Rome; the ancient Greeks signaled each other over long distances using flashes of sunlight off mirrors and polished shields. The Navy uses a Morse-coded version with lamps. The first generation of the LVX system will transmit data at speeds of about 3 megabits per second, roughly as fast as a residential DSL line.

Mohsen Kavehrad, a Penn State electrical engineering professor who has been working with optical network technology for about 10 years, said the approach could be a vital complement to the existing wireless system. He said the radio spectrum usually used for short-range transmissions, such as Wi-Fi, is getting increasingly crowded, which can lead to slower connections. "Light can be the way out of this mess," said Kavehrad, who is not involved in the LVX project. But there are significant hurdles. For one, smart phones and computers already work on Wi-Fi networks that are much faster than the LVX system. Technology analyst Craig Mathias of the Farpoint Group said the problems with wireless congestion will ease as

Wi-Fi evolves, leaving LVX's light system to niche applications such as indoor advertising displays and energy management. LVX Chief Executive Officer John Pederson said a second-generation system that will roll out in about a year will permit speeds on par with commercial Wi-Fi networks. It will also permit lights that can be programmed to change intensity and color. For the city, the data networking capability is secondary. The main reason it paid a \$10,000 installation fee for LVX is to save money on electricity down the line, thanks to the energy-efficient LEDs. Pederson said one of his LED fixtures uses about 36 watts of power to provide the same illumination that 100 watts provides with a standard fluorescent fixture. □



Solar lighting illuminates the way

New 'Green' initiatives taken by Playa Linda



PALM BEACH – The Playa Linda Beach Resort, which was the first resort on Palm Beach to gain Green Globe certification, is again leading the way in pursuing environmentally sound solutions. A total of thirty self-contained, solar-powered exterior lights now line the

beach walkway by the resort as well as illuminate its parking area. “The resort has a long history in seeking ways to lessen its carbon footprint. We have been Green Globe- and ISO 14001-certified for several years, maintain an active Green Committee and continuously

look for additional ways we can implement environmental initiatives as well as cost efficiencies. The choice of switching to solar-powered lights was a natural progression in achieving our goals,” explains Playa Linda General Manager Jan van Nes.

When it came time to replace the exterior lights of the resort, the Playa Linda found an excellent resource in Inetik International N.V., and its directors Aldrich Pontilius and Orlando Ramos. Even with the easily-recognized benefits, Inetik provided a test run of the light fixture during an eight-month period, demonstrating its efficiency in operation before it flipped the switch for the entire project. Inetik’s solar-powered exterior lights provide consistent lighting, needing only two hours of light to recharge, and stores back-up power for two to three days. “Credibility is our primary aim. We have the experience,



having brought these technologies to the South American market. We are now offering not only products, but integrated solutions to Aruba,” comments Inetik Director and Engineer Orlando Ramos. “For the Playa Linda project, the LED matrix of these solar-powered lights represents the newest, ‘superlit’ technology. We were able to install this new technology on the existing light poles, and therefore, helped provide even additional savings to the Playa Linda.”

represent a larger, upfront investment than traditional lights, the system is cost-efficient in the long run as well as more environmentally-sound. Orlando predicts that the return on investment will be realized within three-and-a-half years.

With thirty of the solar-powered lights now in place and working to their full potential, Playa Linda is looking to install an additional thirty exterior units around the pool and by its lanai units, bringing additional light to practical, green ideas. □



Total Finance gets together for the Holiday



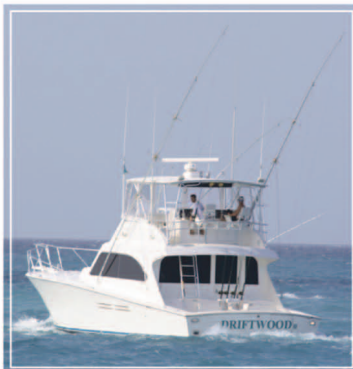
PALM BEACH -- An elegant company dinner for Total Finance brought colleagues into Amazonia Churrascaria just before the holidays. The private lending institute was very busy this month, yet set aside time to reflect on the year together with all office personnel. Pictured here, at Amazonia Churrascaria, enjoying an authentic Brazilian-style xperience of perfectly grilled meats and freshly made salads –beautifully arranged around the new salad bar, the colleagues of Total inance. □



Don't drink & DRIVE

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood! Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"

ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of **Driftwood Fishing Charters**, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant **Driftwood** in Oranjestad.



Driftwood owner Herby Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words

"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

Catch your own dinner

12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.

Rates:
\$360 - 1/2 day
\$720- full day
Rates per boat
Max. 6 people



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009

Driftwood Restaurant

This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their extended

menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 3-course menu for just \$24.



Driftwood Restaurant

Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant

Klipstraat 12, Downtown Oranjestad
Tel: (297) 583 2515
www.driftwoodaruba.com

Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.



The Burrowing Owl our National Bird

By: Roland W. Peterson
Photo's Drs. Greg Peterson

Aruba is a little island country
It is small, but it is a country

Every country has its flag and anthem
Aruba also has its own flag and anthem
It also has its own currency

Amongst the things we are officially missing
are the national flower and tree
and also of course our national bird
One that no other country has as their national bird

I looked all over and
read many articles to see
which bird should this be

I came up with the following criteria
that the bird must have:

It has to be an endemic bird of Aruba

It only lives in Aruba

It has to be a bird everyone knows
It has to be a bird we are proud of
It has to be a bird that never migrates
It has to have the support of the Foundation ABC,

which came up (during their calendar launch) with

the idea of the Owl
being our National Bird

Preferably it has to be a bird that no
other country has as their national bird

After examining the above mentioned criteria, I
came
up with our "Burrowing Owl" (Athene cunicularia
arubensis)
Because of the following:

When the first human set foot on Aruba
our owl was here to welcome him

Several cave drawings of the old Indians depict our
owl

With some reservation I can conclude that the
owl is an Aruban bird
Everyone in Aruba knows our owl
We are all proud of it
It represents intelligence
The whole year round it is in Aruba
It never migrates
It has the support of the Foundation ABC
I did not find another country with our
owl as their national bird

In Aruba we have several names for our owl:
Guardian of the Road, Bird of the night,
The smart Bird, The mysterious Bird etc.

The points I mentioned above are not limited
There are many more things to mention
about our owl
These points are just a start

What a beautiful gesture it would be
that in the year we celebrate our independency
(25th year Status Aparte) the Government proclaims
our
Owl as the National Bird and at the same time state
that it is an endemic valued protected specie.



Let us proclaim the Shoco our National Bird!
Aruba Birdlife Conservation

Aqua Grill... "the hip restaurant that is heaven on earth for seafood lovers," *Fodor's Travel Guide*

Among the island's many fine restaurants, Aqua Grill is the premier seafood sensation. Excitingly prepared in an open-view kitchen, fresh local catches join delicacies from waters abroad, including live Maine lobster, Norwegian salmon, sashimi tuna, and Alaskan king crab, along with a selection of non-seafood dishes.

Aqua Grill's award-winning chef offers a menu of classic and contemporary dishes. The fresh seafood is prepared in a variety of regional styles, melding local island charm with the traditions of New England, the spices of Jamaica, the zesty flavors of Italy, the mystique of Indonesia, and beyond. In addition to a selection of authentic dishes, your seafood

can also be prepared wood-grilled, broiled, poached, steamed, or pan-fried upon request. Complimenting the menu is the island's largest raw bar and a generous wine list of over one hundred selections.

Set in a contemporary decor combining the traditions of a New England fish house with the ease and character of the Caribbean, Aqua Grill's warm, island hospitality is the final ingredient to the complete dining experience on Aruba.

Open nightly from 6pm to 11pm, 5:00pm to 11:00pm on Sunday.
Located across the street from the Radisson Resort and next door to Amazonia Churrascaria.
Tel.: 586-5900



Bring this ad with you and receive
a free glass of house wine
Valid with purchase of main course. Not valid with any other promotions.

December destination wedding takes place at Westin



PALM BEACH - Traditionally, June may be the month of choice for weddings, but at the Westin Resort & Casino Aruba destination weddings abound each and every month, and December is certainly no exception. Rachelle McKenzie and Sawandi English were one of the couples that chose the resort to host all the festivities surrounding their wedding this month. The 140 family members and friends that attended the ceremony were blessed with beautiful sunset nuptials on the beach, followed by a toes-in-the-sand cocktail reception. Guests were then ushered to the resort's Sea Breeze Terrace event venue for an al fresco multi-course dinner and dancing all night. The Westin Resort & Casino Aruba is heralded by wedding professionals here and abroad for its flawless execution of wedding festivities, and the personalized and detailed service offered by a seasoned event team that can tailor each celebration to uniquely suit every bride' and groom's wishes. □

Plunge into our turquoise ocean for the New Year!

'Unox Nieuwjaarsduik' at MooMba Beach is the best cure for a hangover



HADICURARI - Freezing cold water, lots of shivering bodies and shattering teeth hurting from the cold: nothing of the above is expected to happen to you when you join the Unox Nieuwjaarsduik (New Year's plunge), held at MooMba Beach on January 1st. On Aruba the water temperature is lovely, the sun is shining and guiding in the New Year with a plunge into the ocean is no hardship at all. So why not join the fun and the many people who are going to jump into the turquoise water, joining the thousands upon thousands others who are doing the same all over the world, but then in conditions one would not enjoy at all!

This second Diveversity/ MooMba Unox Nieuwjaarsduik has an added benefit: not only do you get rid of the hangover you might have from partying till early morning on the 31st, you get a bowl of Unox Erwtensoeep with sausage as well. This Dutch traditional pea soup will heat you up after your plunge and it will have you in terrific shape for more partying in no time flat. The Nieuwjaarsduik forms part of a worldwide series, but the one on Aruba will make everyone at home sick with jealousy when they see your lovely, toned, bronzed body at MooMba Beach on January 1. At noon, 12 o'clock sharp, the

signal for the plunge is given and swimmers will be racing off towards the ocean seeking eternal fame. Last year, 160 Unox hats were doled out to

participants, but expecting a lot more people, there are now 500 hats waiting for a throbbing or clear head. Participation is free of charge

and everyone is welcome to join in. Sponsors of the event are Unox, Diveversity and MooMba Beach. □





Editor -in-Chief
Julia C. Renfro

Managing Director
John A. Chemaly Jr.

Contributing Editor
Dilma Arends

International Editor
Richard Brooks

Sales Team
Elly Erasmus
Marijke Croes
Wendy Kelkboom

Page Designer
Dina Maria

Advertising Coordinator
Sandra Loefstop-Duarte
aviso@bondia.com
bondia.aruba@gmail.com

Caribbean Speed Printing N.V.
Weststraat #22
Oranjestad, Aruba
Tel: (297) 582-7800
Fax: 582-7044

www.arubatoday.com
E-mail: news@arubatoday.com

HUMAN HINTS

Phase 1 Of The Human Game

The Human Game has different phases. Throughout the following discussion, keep in mind that the physical world is an illusion created and generated by your Expanded Self. You are a self-aware game piece. As you, the Player in the game, become more aware of the game and how to play it, you progress thru the different Phases of the game.

The point of Phase 1 is to convince yourself that you are the opposite of what you really are. You really are your expanded self, an infinitely powerful creator, absolutely limitless in every way. Therefore, in Phase 1, you must convince yourself that you are absolutely limited and restricted in every way. Since you really possess infinite power, you must convince your self that you are completely powerless.

Take a true look at how the world works, and you will see the brilliance of the design of Phase 1 of the game. Everything in Phase 1 is specifically designed to make you feel weak and powerless because that's the opposite of who you really are. We want more money but the more we have, the more of a target we become and the more we worry about losing it. We buy insurance because we're powerless against disaster striking. We want an intimate relationship, but then we're powerless against emotional pain and disappointment. We want success, but then find that it is empty and not fulfilling.

In Phase 1, your expanded self designs every experience to make you feel powerless. This is where Humans have been playing up until now. We now have the opportunity to expand into Phase 2 of the Human Game, which we will describe tomorrow.

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you chose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought. □

Dick Cheney's \$250-Million 'Get of Jail Free' Card

The Nation -- What's the going rate for getting a former vice president off the hook in a major criminal case that involves charges of government corruption and raises concerns about violent wrongdoing and even murder? If you're Dick Cheney, it's roughly \$250 million.

That's the amount that Halliburton and its former subsidiary KBR Inc. are reported, by Nigerian officials and international observers, to have paid to get the government of the African country to drop bribery charges against the former corporate CEO and other Halliburton employees and operatives.

Top Nigerian lawyers and newspapers are objecting, and rightly so.

The charges against Cheney and his colleagues go far beyond the usual corporate corruption.

I've been following them for the better part of a decade.

In the biography I wrote about then-Vice President Richard B. Cheney Dick: The Man Who Is President, published in 2004 by New Press I devoted a good deal of space to the former Halliburton CEO's business engagements in Nigeria.

The section on the dirty dealings in that country by Halliburton during the time when Cheney served as that company's CEO in the 1990s, argued that: "One of the ugliest stories of Halliburton's globe-trotting comes out of Nigeria, the oil-and-gas rich West African country where the brutal dictatorship of Sani Abacha garnered a good deal of attention for jailing and executing environmentalists including playwright Ken Saro-Wiwa who were displeased by its willingness to allow the government's international oil industry partners to dislocate communities and despoil vast stretches of the countryside. Abacha looked like someone with whom Halliburton could do business. The price that Halliburton and its partners in an international consortium had to pay was high they are alleged to have paid a \$180 million bribe to the Abacha government but it was a pittance compared with the potential payout. The liquefied natural gas plant they planned to build was valued at as much as \$6 billion. Things went swimmingly until the Abacha dictatorship began to crumble and details of its dealings with companies such as Halliburton leaked out."

By early 2004, in the midst of Cheney's tenure as the most powerful vice president in American history, French investigators were talking about calling the former CEO to testify regarding his alleged awareness of wrongdoing in Nigeria. Around the same time, the new government of Nigeria opened an inquiry. Things move slowly when it comes to corporate crime investigations.

But the Nigerian inquiry finally reached a critical stage this year for Cheney and for the global quest for corporate accountability.

"We are filing charges against Cheney," Femi Babafemi, a spokesperson for Nigeria's Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), announced this fall.

Godwin Obla, prosecuting counsel for the commission, announced in late November

that Nigerian officials would bring significant charges against Cheney and officials from five foreign companies (including Halliburton) in relation to the bribery scandal.

Business Week, which reported that: "An arrest warrant for Cheney 'will be issued and transmitted through Interpol,' the world's biggest international police organization..." That was no idle threat.

At the time of the announcement, Nigeria had already arrested roughly two dozen officials with Halliburton and its partner companies Technip SA, Europe's second-largest oilfield-services provider; Eni SpA, Italy's biggest oil company; and Saipem Construction Co., a unit of Eni in connection with alleged illegal payments to Nigerian officials, according to Business Week.

But Cheney and his compatriots did not appear to be interested in clearing their names in a court of law.

After weeks of behind-the-scenes negotiating by Halliburton representatives with the Nigerians a process that reportedly saw former President George H.W. Bush and former Secretary of State James Baker make calls on Cheney's behalf the charges against Cheney have been dropped.

Why? Did new evidence of Cheney's innocence come to light?

No.

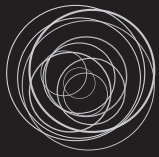
According to the Associated Press, "Nigeria's anti-corruption watchdog, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, said the charges were dropped on Friday after Halliburton agreed to pay fines up to \$250 million over allegations it paid it has agreed to pay \$35 million to the Nigerian government over "allegations of improper payments to government officials in Nigeria."

But it appears that the even bigger payout will take the form of a deal to free up Nigerian money that had been locked away in Swiss bank accounts.

The revelation that Halliburton and KBR paid tens of millions of dollars directly, and hundreds of millions indirectly, to get Cheney and his associates off the hook, has not set well with Nigerians who have campaigned for transparency and accountability.

Calling for a rethink of the agreement, Osuagwu Ugochukwu, the principal partner Nigeria's St. Francis Xavier Solicitors firm, argued that Cheney and his compatriots received special treatment that was not in accordance with proper legal procedures. "We know as a point of law that once a criminal charge has been filed in a competent court, issue of penalty of fine is for the courts to impose and not parties," argued the prominent lawyer. "Hence, we are shocked to hear that EFCC imposed a fine on an accused person. We also know as a point of law that criminal matters cannot be settled out of court as in civil matters in Nigeria."

Declaring that deal raises "troubling questions about business ethics and the government's anti-corruption posture," the Daily Sun newspaper editorial declared that: "We therefore condemn in strong terms this kind of under the table settlement. □"



CILO
city lounge
ARUBA

DAILY LUNCH & DINNER SPECIALS

- Serving breakfast, lunch, dinner & drinks
- Lounge, Bar, indoors and outdoors seating
- Daily Events & Entertainment
- Open daily 7AM - 1AM



RENAISSANCE MARKETPLACE • L.G. SMITH BLVD. 82 • ORANJESTAD ARUBA • T: (297) 588 7996 • WWW.CILO-ARUBA.COM

Package bomb found at Greek embassy in Italy

NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

ROME (AP)—Bomb squad experts defused a package bomb that was delivered to the Greek Embassy in Rome on Monday, four days after similar mail bombs exploded at two other embassies, wounding two people.

Carabinieri Col. Maurizio Mezzavilla said the bomb was similar to the ones that exploded Thursday at the Chilean and Swiss embassies. An anarchist group with reported ties to Greek anarchists claimed responsibility for those blasts.

“Having been done in the same way, we can just hypothesize that there is the same hand behind it,” Greek Ambassador Michalis Kambanis said at the embassy, although he added that he knew of no specific claim of responsibility.

Greek Foreign Ministry spokesman Gregoris Delavekouras said from Athens that no one was harmed in the latest incident, in part because heightened security measures had already been put in place.

“The embassy was evacuated and the staff assembled some distance away from the building, so that everyone could be accounted for,” he told The Associated Press.

“There were already heightened security measures at the Greek and other embassies, so the procedure that had to be followed was clear.”

Police, carabinieri and

firefighters massed around the building Monday while the Greek Embassy staff lingered outside. The street, in the residential Parioli neighborhood, remained open to traffic.

Ambassador Kambanis said the package, hand addressed to the embassy, was discovered at about 10:30 a.m.

“We immediately informed the carabinieri who arrived here within three minutes,” he said.

“We (notified) the appropriate services and the bomb was neutralized.”

There have been several other reports of suspicious packages in recent days that turned out to be false alarms. On Monday, police responded to suspicious packages at the embassies of Venezuela, Finland, Monaco and Denmark; all were false alarms.

“We don’t take any chances in this situation,” Danish Foreign Ministry spokesman Klavs A. Holm told the AP in Copenhagen. He said the embassy staff briefly evacuated the building and called authorities after a suspect package was found. It turned out to be a bottle of red wine.

“We have now resumed work,” Holm added.

Police had told all embassies in the capital to be on alert after the package bombs on Thursday; Monday was the first day of business after the Christmas holiday. Some embassies chose to remain closed as a precaution: Sweden’s



Firefighters stand outside the Greek Embassy in Rome, Monday, Dec. 27, 2010. A package bomb was found at the Greek Embassy in Rome on Monday, four days after similar mail bombs exploded at two other embassies injuring two people.

Foreign Ministry said no packages had been found at its embassy in Rome but that it was closed Monday “for security measures.”

An Italian group calling itself the Informal Anarchist Federation claimed responsibility for Thursday’s blasts. News reports said that a claim found at one of the embassies cited the name of Lambros Fountas, a Greek anarchist who was killed in a shootout with police in March.

Interior Minister Roberto Maroni has said that investigators believe the anarchists who were responsible might have ties to Greek anarchists responsible for last month’s letter bombings at Athens embassies.

On Nov. 2, suspected Greek anarchists sent 14

mail bombs to foreign embassies in Athens, as well as to Italian premier Silvio Berlusconi, French President Nicolas Sarkozy and German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Two of the devices exploded, causing no injuries.

Italian police chief Antonio Manganelli said Monday that to date there were no “material” links between the Athens and Rome bombings. But in comments to the ANSA news agency, Manganelli said contacts and synergies between anarchist groups of the two countries are constantly being investigated by joint Greek and Italian police operations.

A group called Conspiracy Nuclei of Fire claimed responsibility for the Greek blasts. It called on militants in Greece and other

countries to step up their action, and Greek police noted last week that in the past acts of “solidarity” have been carried out between Greek and Italian militant groups.

But though the bombings were similar, Greek police have pointed out that the attacks there seemed not intended to cause injury — and none was caused. In contrast, the Italian attacks seemed intent on at least seriously wounding whoever opened the envelopes.

At least one of the devices contained an iron bolt that shot into the chest of the Chilean employee. That man also risked losing the sight in his eye; both he and the Swiss victim had serious injuries to their hands and arms, hospital officials said. □

Dubai police seek woman who killed baby at airport

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Police in United Arab Emirates are searching for a woman they believe delivered a baby and then strangled it in an airport toilet before catching a flight out of the country.

Local media reported Monday that authorities are seeking help from Interpol to locate the suspect, who was identified using security camera footage after the baby's body was discovered in a Dubai airport garbage can Thursday.

The Abu Dhabi government-owned daily The National cited an unnamed security source saying authorities are searching for an Ethiopian woman in her 30s. Other media said only that she is from an African country.

It's unclear if the woman was a resident in the Emirates, where giving birth outside of marriage is illegal. □

Explosions rock Serbian munitions factory

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — Police say a series of explosions have rocked a Serbian munitions factory, causing serious damage but no injuries.

The Sloboda factory in Cacak, central Serbia, which produces artillery shells and other explosive devices for the military, was ablaze for hours Monday. Authorities said they managed to evacuate workers before the blasts started.

One of the main military factories in Serbia, the facility was repeatedly targeted by NATO during the alliance's air strikes in 1999 over a government crackdown against Kosovo separatists.

Police say the cause of the explosions was unknown. "The blasts are preventing fire fighters from intervening," a police statement said. □



In this file photo of Thursday, Dec. 17, 2009, Iranian Vice-President Mohammad Reza Rahimi, right, accompanies President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in his departure ceremony as he leaves Tehran's Mehrabad airport for Copenhagen to attend the U.N. Climate Summit. The allegations in Tehran aim high: Iran's top-ranked vice president facing charges of high-level corruption that could force him to stand trial. But it's the fallout that could prove most stinging for President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. The claims — hitting one of Ahmadinejad's most trusted political partners — hold the potential for serious mudslinging that could blast open the rivalries within the president's conservative camp.

Associated Press

IRAN

Continued from Front Page

The political infighting escalated earlier this month when Ahmadinejad suddenly dismissed his longtime foreign minister, Manouchehr Mottaki, a close ally of Larijani. Many lawmakers and others denounced the move as further evidence of Ahmadinejad's steamrolling style. He dumped Mottaki in apparent retaliation for disagreements that included control over foreign ministry posts.

Shortly after Mottaki's firing, the judiciary headed by Larijani's brother announced the corruption allegations against First Vice President Mohammad Reza Rahimi.

The charges could do more damage to Ahmadinejad and the reputation he has cultivated as aloof from Iran's powerful financial clans and foundations, many run by the Revolutionary Guard.

The developments revealed the increasingly complex political maneuvering within the Islamic Republic as it struggles with economic sanctions and growing international pressure to curb its production of nuclear fuel. The judiciary last week said Rahimi is facing corruption charges that need to be investigated and will have to

stand trial. The details of the accusations against him have not been made public since. Rahimi quickly denied the charges and was expected to present his side at a news conference, possibly later this week.

On Monday, Ahmadinejad's office came to Rahimi's defense, saying that his complaints against the accusations should be investigated, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

But the rumblings have been coming for months against Rahimi, whose position as the top of 12 vice presidents gives him authority to meet visiting prime ministers and other dignitaries and lead Cabinet meetings in Ahmadinejad's absence.

Some of Ahmadinejad's political foes have frequently taken pot shots at Rahimi with allegations of financial misdeeds since a major government-linked embezzlement probe opened in April. At the time, conservative lawmaker Elias Naderan calling Rahimi the "leader of the corruption circle."

Now, a full-scale investigation and possible trial could become a high-stakes proxy clash between Ahmadinejad and Larijani and his backers,

who include his brother, judiciary chief Ayatollah Sadeq Larijani.

The immediate battles may be sporadic because all of Iran's political establishment is currently engrossed in painful steps to trim government subsidies, which has already pushed fuel prices up to 400 percent higher.

The economic shock has brought waves of complaints against the government from all sides. Reformists have claimed the billions saved on subsidies will be funneled back to help boost Ahmadinejad and the Revolutionary Guard. Even some hard-liners — Ahmadinejad's political base — have said the price hikes are too fast and too steep.

The rifts point to the next big political test in Iran — parliamentary elections in early 2012. The races will mark the first major balloting since the accusations of vote-rigging after Ahmadinejad's June 2009 victory plunged Iran into its worst internal chaos since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

It's still uncertain whether the opposition movement can rebound in some form for the parliamentary campaign. But there's little doubt that Larijani and his allies will make a run. □

Roberto's watersports

3 hours sailing & snorkeling on the SEA-VENTURE

incl. Light lunch
Open bar
Clean equipment

28 persons max.
Location: Moomba Beach
Tel: 592-2859

only
\$35

FOOD, Liquor & More...

Mini Market at "The Village"

Walking distance from all High Rise Hotels
Located opposite the Radisson Hotel & right across from Señor Frog's!

id get your Basic Food & Drink supplies

A variety of Wines and especially that...

ICE COLD BEER !!!



Souvenirs of Aruba also available!

OPEN DAILY!

Monday through Sunday
From 10 am to Midnight !

Tel. 586-7478 Te Oro ! See you there !

Great Vacation Rental Values!

- Fully furnished 2 & 3 bedroom Town Homes
- Two community swimming pool plazas
- Very attractive rates
- Per room pricing less than major resorts



Tel: +297-586-2200 • Fax: +297-586-2201
 rentals@goldcoastaruba.com
 www.goldcoastaruba.com



*Your Island...
 Your Lifestyle...
 Your Home...*

Dare to Dream...



- Gated community with 24 hours security
- Villas, Town Homes and Condos
- Full resort facilities and services
- Prime location near golf course and beautiful white sandy beaches
- Vacation rental program

Closed December 25th and January 1st

Opening Hours:
 Weekdays 9am - 6pm
 Saturday 10am - 6pm
 Sunday 12noon - 4pm



OUTSTANDING INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY!

E-mail: info@goldcoastaruba.com • E-mail: rentals@goldcoastaruba.com
 Tel: +297-586-2200 • Fax: +297-586-2201
 Toll Free from the U.S. 1-866-978-5770 • www.goldcoastaruba.com

Russian tycoon Khodorkovsky again found guilty

LYNN BERRY
 NATALIYA VASILYEVA
 Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Mikhail Khodorkovsky was convicted Monday of stealing oil from his own company and laundering the proceeds, a verdict likely to keep the oil tycoon who once challenged the power of Vladimir Putin behind bars for several more years.

The unrelenting legal attack on Khodorkovsky, once Russia's richest man, has come to define the country's transformation under Putin. The outcome of the second trial exposes how little has changed under President Dmitry Medvedev despite his promises to strengthen the rule of law and make courts an independent branch of government.

Putin, now prime minister, remains the more powerful leader. Any lingering doubt that the verdict would be guilty was dispelled this month when he said Khodorkovsky was a proven criminal who should sit in prison.

Putin, seen as the driving force behind the trial, has not ruled out a return to the presidency in 2012 and appears unwilling to risk the possibility that a freed Khodorkovsky could help unite and lead his political foes.

During his seven years in prison, Khodorkovsky has been transformed into a symbol of the struggle for democracy in Russia. His hair, now gray, is cropped short and his complexion is pasty from lack of sun and exercise, but he appears strong and unbroken.

It was clear from the opening pages of his verdict that the judge had found Khodorkovsky and his business partner Platon Lebedev guilty. Reading the full verdict and announcing the sentence was expected to take several days.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton led a chorus of political figures in the United

States and Europe in condemning the verdict, which she said "raises serious questions about selective prosecution and about the rule of law being overshadowed by political considerations."

Khodorkovsky, 47, is nearing the end of an eight-year sentence after being convicted of tax fraud in a case seen as punishment for challenging the Kremlin's economic and political power, in part by funding opposition parties in parliament.

The conviction on charges of stealing nearly \$30 billion worth of the oil that his Yukos company produced from 1998 to 2003 and laundering the proceeds could keep him behind bars until at least 2017.

Prosecutors accused Khodorkovsky and Lebedev of stealing the oil from Yukos' own production units and then selling the oil abroad at higher prices. The defense called the charges ridiculous, arguing that prosecutors do not understand the oil business, including the payment of transit fees and export duties.

One of Khodorkovsky's lawyers, Vadim Klyuvgant, said Monday that if this logic were extended to the state oil and gas company Gazprom, the same charges could be brought against Medvedev.

"The court ruled that the difference between the oil price at the production site and at the market represents theft," Klyuvgant said. "Gazprom, where Medvedev served as board chairman, buys oil at the production site at a price 10 times lower than the market price in Rotterdam. Isn't that selective justice? Do they have any shame?"

Numerous witnesses, including current and former government officials, testified during the 20-month trial that the charges against Khodorkovsky and Lebedev were absurd. □



Mikhail Khodorkovsky listens to a verdict from behind bars at a court room in Moscow, Monday, Dec. 27, 2010. His co-defendant Platon Lebedev's hand is seen at right.

Associated Press



- **LOW** rates
- **FREE** pick-up
- **FREE** delivery
- **FREE** road map
- **FAST** & friendly service



**PLEASE CALL US DIRECT:
 TEL: 583-0200**

Fishes & More showcases the best seafood entrees

Ask about the Early Bird Menu from 4 PM to 6:30 PM



Fishes & More specialize in freshest fish and seafood on the island, and at the same time please the non-fish lovers as well. All the dishes are prepared a la minute by an internationally experienced kitchen team, which gives the twist to the fabulous dishes. Influences from all over

the world are found back on the menu and they are already well known for the daily changing specials. If you have a large party, or if there is anything you feel like in particular, Fishes & More can always arrange to have your dinner cooked just for you, as they work

only with fresh and honest products! Ideally located in front of the Occidental Resort (Former Allegro), they are visited both by individuals and families alike, as they have a super kids menu, so they can enjoy their dinner as much as you

will yours! Enjoy live entertainment every night at 8PM, and even after dinner the perfect night out continues, as you can shop till you drop since the shops on our friendly

square are open until eleven. See what its like to experience real fresh dining joy with a twist!

Open from 4 pm until midnight

For reservations call
+(297) 586-3659

More than just the best pizza on the island...

Casa Tua's highlight of the day: Ossobuco that melts in your mouth

PALM BEACH - Located on Palm Beach in the Arawak Gardens, Casa Tua presents a fresh under-the-stars approach to dining in Aruba. The outdoor atmosphere is cool and relaxed; the name says it all "Casa Tua" meaning "Your Home" in Italian.

The menu varies with a wide array of Italian dishes including a Sicilian-style thin crust pizza dripping with cheese, fresh-made tomato sauce and a variety of toppings in the meat, seafood and veggie categories.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT of the menu is the *Ossobuco di Vitello con Tagliatelle* which is a mouth watering Veal Ossobuco (shank) stewed with red wine, parsley, Rosemary, oregano, onions and lemon juice served with the most unique Tagliatelle. After the first bite, patrons are seen pinching themselves to see if they are dreaming or actually taking a true bite of seventh heaven.

The menu doesn't stop there as Casa Tua features incredible appetizers including shrimp



bruschetta, fresh marinated seafood, escargots, amazing salads, homemade soups starting at \$8 and authentic Italian lasagnas & pastas starting at just \$13. The staff at this popular eatery has set the standard on the island for the term "great service" not only with your dining pleasure, but recognized as 'the' professionals in assisting guests with the perfect cocktail, paired wine or other beverages.

After just one dinner at Casa Tua, you'll know your home in this family owned eatery. Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu, or Profiteroles au Chocolat Chaud.

The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...

Opening Hours:

Dinner 5:30 PM - 10:30 PM

For more information or reservations please call Tel: (297) 586-8470

www.casatuaaruba.com



Doping scandals mar cycling year again

This file photo taken July 25, 2010, shows Lance Armstrong looking back on the podium after the 20th and last stage of the Tour de France cycling race in Paris, France. Armstrong won't be riding in the Tour de France anymore but has said he'll still compete in smaller races in 2011 as an ambassador in the fight against cancer.

Associated Press
Page B7

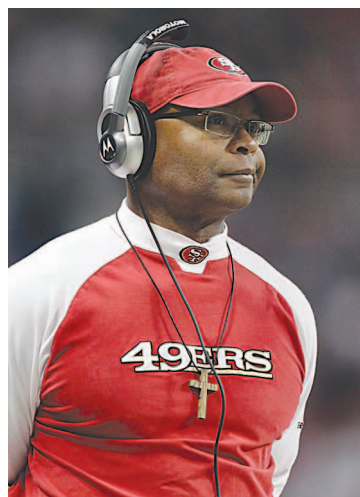


SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:582-7800 Tuesday, December 28, 2010



San Francisco 49ers head coach Mike Singletary looks on from the sidelines during the first quarter of an NFL football game against the St. Louis Rams, Sunday, Dec. 26, 2010, in St. Louis.

Associated Press

49ers fire coach Mike Singletary

JANIE McCAULEY,
AP Sports Writer

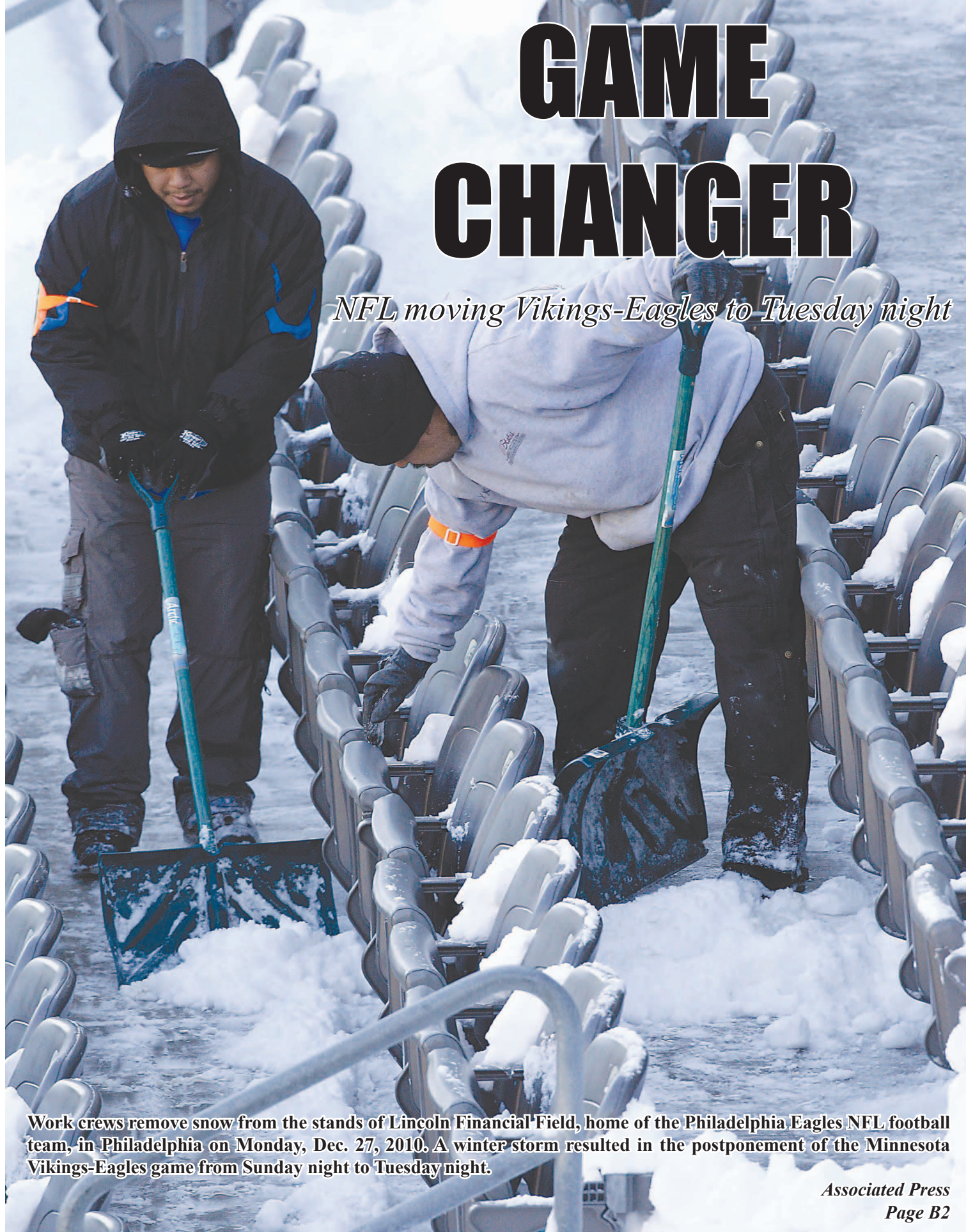
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Mike Singletary was fired by the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday night after two disappointing seasons, including a 5-10 showing this year for a franchise expected to win the NFC West.

The team made the announcement late Sunday upon returning to the Bay Area, several hours after San Francisco was eliminated from playoff contention with a 25-17 loss at St. Louis. Defensive line coach Jim Tomsula was promoted to interim coach and will run the team in next Sunday's season finale at home against Arizona. He was to be formally introduced in a news conference Monday.

Continued on Page B4

GAME CHANGER

NFL moving Vikings-Eagles to Tuesday night



Work crews remove snow from the stands of Lincoln Financial Field, home of the Philadelphia Eagles NFL football team, in Philadelphia on Monday, Dec. 27, 2010. A winter storm resulted in the postponement of the Minnesota Vikings-Eagles game from Sunday night to Tuesday night.

Associated Press
Page B2

Winter storm is playing havoc with sports teams

By DAVE SKRETTA

AP Sports Writer

Sports teams were scrambling a day after a blizzard dumped more than a foot of snow along portions of the East Coast, stranding two NHL franchises near New York City and forcing Philadelphia to dig out before Tuesday night's NFL game.

The Toronto Maple Leafs were stuck in traffic for four hours while heavy snow and gusting winds whipped through New Jersey on Sunday night.

The Leafs were returning to their hotel after beating the Devils 4-1 in Newark when New Jersey State Police closed the road. A 20-minute ride in clear weather became an exercise in patience.

"It's totally out of your control," said Dave Poulin, the Maple Leafs' vice president of hockey operations. Poulin added the team was comfortable and there was little grouching.

"You're on a great big warm bus that's absolutely full with 200 gallons of gas," he said.

Some of the players passed the time by tweeting. Center Tyler Bozak told his followers: "Roads closed in new jersey stuck on the bussss. Brutaallll!"

The team finally arrived at the hotel about 3 a.m., five hours after leaving the Prudential Center. The next concern was when Newark Liberty Airport would open so the team could head back to Toronto, where a game against Carolina is scheduled for Tuesday night.

The Montreal Canadiens also were concerned about flying out after losing to the New York Islanders 4-1 on Sunday. Republic Airport on Long Island had



Snow falls on Lincoln Financial Field, home of the Philadelphia Eagles football team, Sunday, Dec. 26, 2010, in Philadelphia. The Eagles game scheduled for Sunday evening against the Minnesota Vikings was postponed until Tuesday due to wintry weather.

been closed while a fleet of snow blowers and other equipment tried to clear its two runways, but the Canadiens were expected to depart Monday afternoon for a game Tuesday night at Washington.

Workers in Philadelphia were busy digging out Lincoln Financial Field before the Eagles played the Minnesota Vikings on Tuesday night.

The game was postponed from Sunday when the storm system dumped about a foot of snow on Philadelphia. The extra time could help the Vikings get quarterback Brett Favre and running back Adrian Peterson healthy enough to play.

"We're OK with it," Eagles coach Andy Reid said. "We're organized and prepared for this, and we completely support what the league did from a safety standpoint for everybody." Pennsylvania's governor,

however, didn't share the same opinion.

"This is football; football's played in bad weather," Ed Rendell told KYW-TV on Sunday. "The fans would have gotten there, the subways work and the major arteries are still open and other fans would have stayed home. But you play football regardless of the weather."

The governor, who does football commentaries after Eagles games, was asked what Vince Lombardi would say about the postponement. "He'd be mocking us," Rendell said.

Other NFL teams planned to travel home Monday after storms put a crimp in their plans.

The New York Jets spent the night in Chicago following a 38-34 loss to the Bears. The New England Patriots were also unable to travel home immediately after a 34-3 win in Buffalo, and the New York Giants spent

the night in Appleton, Wis., after a 45-17 loss at Green Bay.

"Depressing," Giants tight end Kevin Boss said. "It would've been a lot easier with a win."

The storm also caused trouble for numerous college events.

Fordham's men's team was scheduled to face Georgia Tech on Monday night, but the game was called off when the Rams' flight to Atlanta was canceled. The start of women's basketball tournaments at Fordham in New York and Tulane in New Orleans were delayed until Wednesday.

The weather also caused a kickoff event in Times Square for the inaugural Pinstripe Bowl to be canceled Monday. Kansas State plays Syracuse on Thursday at Yankee Stadium.

While snow and cold caused numerous problems this past weekend, unseasonably

warm weather could create more problems by Saturday. Along with melting snow and the potential for flooding, the mild forecast is concerning NHL officials at the Winter Classic in Pittsburgh.

Rain showers and temperatures in the low 50s are expected for the outdoor game between the Washington Capitals and Pittsburgh Penguins at Heinz Field on New Year's Day. Light rain could freeze almost immediately after hitting the ice, creating an uneven surface that could quickly become unplayable. A steadier rain is even worse because it might flood the surface.

The game can be played only Saturday or Sunday because the stadium must be turned over to the Steelers. If the Winter Classic is not played this weekend, the game would be rescheduled for later this season at the Penguins' arena. □

Associated Press

JOLLY PIRATES \$10 off

SAIL, SNORKEL, SWIM & SWING!
DAILY 9:30-2pm \$56pp
 Visit 3 Great sites with BBQ, Open Bar, Gear & Ropeswing!

AFTERNOON SNORKEL
DAILY 3-6pm only \$38pp
 Shorter version of morning cruise same stops Open Bar, Gear & Ropeswing!

SUNSET SAIL
Mon & Fri 5-7pm only \$30pp
 Open Bar included & Ropeswing!

Save \$10 per couple / per coupon for morning cruise. Save \$5 per couple / per coupon for afternoon cruise.

586 8107/592 7858

Tickets available at Jolly Pirates Shop at MooMba Beach. Boarding at MooMba Beach- by the high rise hotels between Holiday Inn and Marriott Resorts. Offer not valid in combination with other discount offers. Valid for direct telephone reservations only - Present coupon upon boarding.

NBA Roundup

Spurs extend Christmas misery for Wizards

The Associated Press
 SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Tony Parker scored 20 points and 14 assists as the NBA-leading San Antonio Spurs extended a miserable Christmas for the Washington Wizards 94-80 on Sunday night.

The Spurs improved to 24-6, rebounding from a 123-101 loss to Orlando on Thursday night that ended their winning streak at 11. The league leaders in 3-point percentage, San Antonio shot 10 of 24 from long range.

Manu Ginobili scored 21 points and George Hill added 11 for the Spurs.

Rashard Lewis, acquired last week from Orlando, had 21 points for Washington, playing without suspended forwards Andray Blatche and JaVale McGee. They were suspended for one game for conduct detrimental to the team.

The Washington Post said Blatche and McGee were involved in an altercation outside a club early Friday. The newspaper reported that two league sources said the players cursed at each other and exchanged punches. The Post reported another source said police were called to break up the fight.

In Los Angeles, rookie Blake Griffin scored 28 points and 12 rebounds for his 18th straight double-double to help the Los Angeles Clippers beat Phoenix for the first time in 10 games.

Eric Gordon scored 24 points, and Baron Davis had 15 points and nine assists. Newly acquired Mickael Pietrus had a season-high 25 points for Phoenix, and Steve Nash finished with 21 points and 15 assists.

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Carlos Boozer had 31 points and 11 rebounds, and Derrick Rose added 23 points and a career-high 12 rebounds in Chicago's overtime victory.

Detroit sent the game to overtime when Charlie Villanueva tipped home a missed shot with 0.6 seconds left. The Pistons missed three shots on the possession, but grabbed all three offensive rebounds.

Tayshaun Prince led Detroit with 17 points.

In Cleveland, Michael Beasley scored on a driving layup with 5.9 seconds left and finished with 28 points to help Minnesota end its seven game losing streak.

Beasley scored after Antawn Jamison's basket with 10.6 seconds left gave Cleveland the lead.

Luke Ridnour scored 23 points to help Minnesota improve to 7-24. Love added 16, including 14 in the fourth quarter, and had 18 rebounds for his NBA-

leading 26th double-double. Jamison led Cleveland with 24 points. The Cavaliers are 1-13 in their last 14 and 8-22 overall.

In New Orleans, Chris Paul scored 22 points, 13 in the pivotal third quarter, to lead New Orleans to victory over Atlanta.

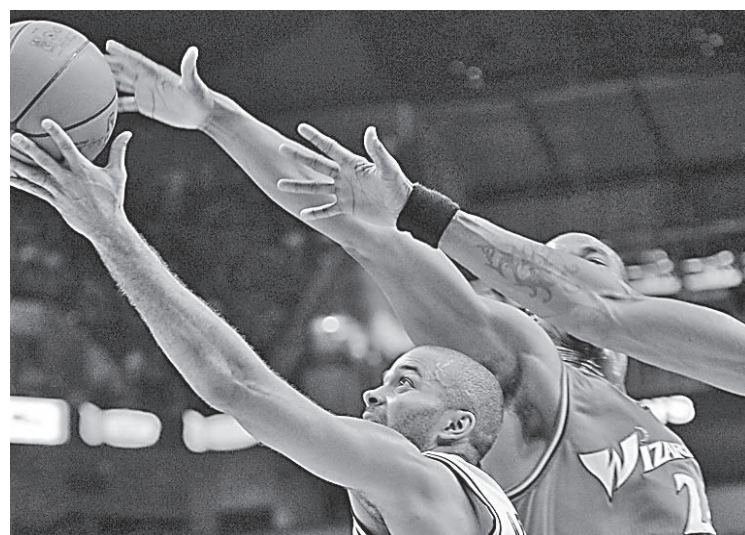
Paul was 10 of 17 from the field and had eight assists. David West scored 18 points and Emeka Okafor had 14 points and 15 rebounds.

Joe Johnson led the Hawks with 23 points and Marvin Williams had 18.

In Indianapolis, Rudy Gay scored 30 points, Zach Randolph had 18 points and 16 rebounds and Memphis beat Indiana to end a three-game losing streak.

In Denver, Jrue Holiday scored 22 points, Thaddeus Young added 20 and Philadelphia rallied in the fourth quarter to beat Denver.

Chauncey Billups had 24



San Antonio Spurs' Tony Parker, left, of France, is defended by Washington Wizards' John Wall (2) during the second quarter of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Dec. 26, 2010, in San Antonio.

Associated Press

points and Arron Afflalo and Ty Lawson added 14 each for the Nuggets, who lost their third straight since Carmelo Anthony left the team Wednesday following the death of his sister. L.A. Clippers 108, Phoenix

103; Minnesota 98, Cleveland 97; Chicago 95, Detroit 92, OT; New Orleans 93, Atlanta 86; San Antonio 94, Washington 80; Memphis 104, Indiana 90; and Philadelphia 95, Denver 89. □

FOR SALE



Opal 36

This recently finished family home with apartment is located in North. The architectural design is quite unique. The house comes with a living room, dining room, closet in kitchen, hall, 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, covered back patio, hot water facility and separate laundry.

US \$ 365,000,-

Century 21
Best & Solid Real Estate

Palm Beach 4-G
Tel.: 586 4242
www.arubahouses.com

BENLO CIGARS

Import & Export • We ship all over the world • Tel.: 5863555
 Located in the Arowak Garden, next to Salt & Pepper, Paparazzi and Tango Restaurant.

We are specialized in premium Cuban Cigars.

Opening hours: Mon. - Sat. 8:30am - 11:00pm
 Sunday 9:00am - 11:00pm

Depending on purchase, we have discounts starting from 5% up to 20%.
 With purchase of \$20 or more 1 FREE CIGAR

Bring this coupon for your free Cuban Cigar!

Tel: 582-0697 / 583-7484
 Schotland str. 70



Extend your Stay at

Quality Apartments

- *Studio & Loft Apts.
- *Kitchen / Airco / Cable TV
- Less than 1 mile from Eagle Beach & 4 large supermarkets.
- Feel free to contact or visit us.
- Mon - Fri: 8am-7pm. Sat & Sun: 9am-5pm.

- *Fully Furnished
- *Swimming Pool

NFL playoffs: who needs what to clinch

NEW YORK — Three division titles remain undecided heading into the final week of the NFL season: the AFC South, NFC South and NFC West. Indianapolis wins the AFC South by beating visiting Tennessee on Sunday, or if Jacksonville loses at Houston. Atlanta needed a victory Monday night at home against New Orleans or next Sunday, also at home against Carolina, to take the NFC South. The winner of Sunday's game in Seattle between the Rams and Seahawks wins the NFC West. While the AFC wild cards belong to the Jets and either the Ravens or Steelers — whichever doesn't take the AFC North — five teams have shots at NFC wild cards: Atlanta, New Orleans, Green Bay, Tampa Bay and the New York Giants. So the AFC is not very complicated, with New

England the East winner, Kansas City champion of the West, and either Baltimore or Pittsburgh taking the North. The Steelers hold the tiebreaker over the Ravens and are at Cleveland on Sunday. Baltimore hosts Cincinnati. The Chiefs and the AFC South winner will host a wild-card round playoff game. Things are more unsettled in the NFC, where Chicago (North) and Philadelphia (East) own division titles. Seattle (6-9) could become the first division winner in NFL history with a losing record if it beats St. Louis (7-8) in their finale, which has been flexed to a Sunday night game. Should New Orleans win at Atlanta and then beat visiting Tampa Bay, it would take the South and the Falcons would be a wild card. But the defending Super Bowl champion Saints



Pittsburgh Steelers defensive end Brett Keisel celebrates a sack of Carolina Panthers quarterback Jimmy Clausen in the third quarter of the NFL football game, Thursday, Dec. 23, 2010, in Pittsburgh. The Steelers won 27-3.

could fall right out of the picture by losing twice. They would then need either the Packers or Giants to lose their finale: Green Bay hosts archrival

Chicago, while New York is at Washington. The Packers (9-6) have the inside track for a wild card — win and they are in. The Giants and Bucs must win

Associated Press
Sunday to have a shot at a wild card. No first-round byes have been clinched in the NFC, either. Atlanta gets one with a win Monday night.



The San Francisco 49ers' CEO and team president Jed York, right, introduced their new interim head coach, former defensive line coach Jim Tomsula, to replace Mike Singletary, at a press conference at team headquarters, Monday, Dec. 27, 2010 in Santa Clara, Calif.

Associated Press

49ERS
Continued from Page B1
Team president and CEO Jed York addressed

reporters in St. Louis after the Niners' loss Sunday and was noncommittal about whether Singletary

would coach the final game, saying he planned to think about it. Singletary was told of his dismissal back at the team's Santa Clara complex after the trip home. "I want to thank Mike Singletary for the passion and effort that he brought to this organization," York said in a statement. "He is a tremendous person for whom I will always have great respect." San Francisco began the year with high hopes of winning the West and reaching the postseason for the first time since 2002. Singletary finished with an 18-22 record in two-plus seasons. "One of the greatest experiences of my life was having the opportunity to coach the San Francisco 49ers," Singletary said in a statement. "What made it so special were the players. They were some of the

most outstanding men I have ever been around in my life. The coaches were truly professionals. I wish the 49ers nothing but the best. I am thankful to the York family for having given me the opportunity to be a head coach in the NFL. I am indebted to them for that. I am also thankful for the Faithful fans, I am just sorry I couldn't give them more." The 49ers began 0-5 and will finish with a losing record for the seventh time in eight years. They went 8-8 in Singletary's first full season, then produced an unbeaten preseason this year only to drop their first five games. It was the franchise's worst start since losing seven in a row to begin a 2-14 season in 1979 — in the late Hall of Famer Bill Walsh's first year as coach. No team has recovered

from an 0-5 start to reach the playoffs, but the 49ers would have made it if they had defeated the Rams and won again next Sunday. If that had happened, San Francisco would have won the tiebreaker over Seattle and St. Louis to win the division and become the first team with a losing record in a non-strike season to make the playoffs. "You know what, I'll put it this way: a personal failure. I'm the head coach of this team and obviously wanted us to do better, felt that we could do better," Singletary said after Sunday's loss. "There are some obvious questions that I hoped would be answered as the season went on, and obviously were not answered. When that happens, you end up out of the playoffs. "I take full responsibility for every unanswered question." □

Aust Open to precede Presidents Cup

By DENNIS PASSA

AP Sports Writer

BRISBANE, Australia — The Australian Open will precede the Presidents Cup next November, a decision that could put the Australian Masters — an event Tiger Woods has played the last two years — opposite the American star's own tournament in California.

The PGA of Australia announced Sunday that the Open, likely to be held at a Sydney-area course, will be held from Nov. 10-13. The Australian PGA at Coolum will be played Nov. 24-27, a week after the Presidents Cup between the United States and an International team at Royal Melbourne.

The PGA also said that the Australian Masters was tentatively scheduled for Dec. 1-4, but that was still to be confirmed. Woods, the Australian Masters winner in 2009, has said he'd prefer to see it played the week before the Presidents Cup.

The Masters is scheduled to be played at Kingston Heath, another sandbelt course near Royal Melbourne and one which would have given Woods and other Presidents Cup players an ideal preparation for the team event.

IMG, which manages Woods, also runs the Australian Masters and had hoped to get the prime slot before the Presidents Cup to boost its field. The Australian Open in Sydney will now have that opportunity, although the likely course, The Lakes, doesn't have as much in common with Royal Melbourne as Kingston Heath does.

"We would like this date. It's critical to us," Mark Steinberg, head of IMG's global golf division, said in November during the Masters.

"We feel like we took on the risk by moving to this date a few years ago, going up against some big events, and we made it successful. We feel we deserve to keep the date, now that it's a coveted date for next year."

Woods received a \$3 million appearance fee — half of that paid by the Victorian state government — but in his first year, a government study showed the economic return was more than \$30 million.

Max Garske, the chief executive of the PGA of Australia, said Sunday that the decision "was made in the best interest of both Australian golf and the PGA Tour of Australasia." □

Obama commends Eagles for Vick's second chance

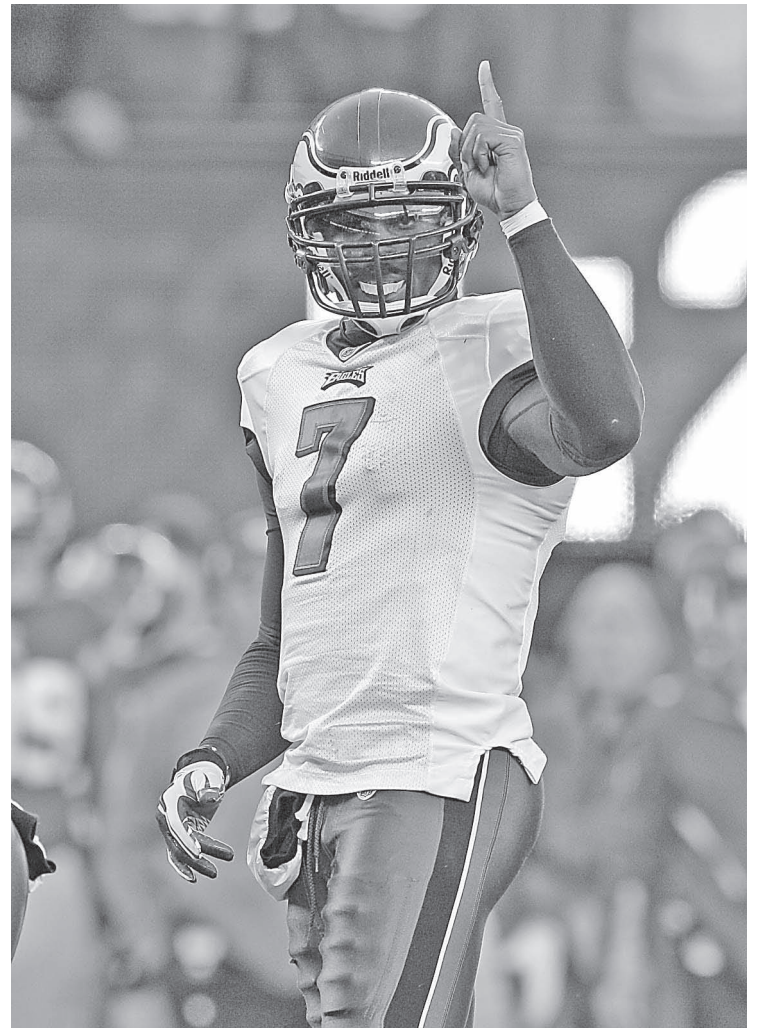
HONOLULU (AP) —

The White House says President Barack Obama has commended the owner of the National Football League's Philadelphia Eagles for giving quarterback Michael Vick a second chance after his release from prison.

Obama spokesman Bill Burton says the president told owner Jeffrey Lurie that while he condemns the crimes Vick was convicted of, he believes people who have paid for their crimes should have the opportunity to contribute to society again.

The Eagles signed Vick last year after he served an 18-month prison sentence on charges related to a dogfighting ring. Vick has led the Eagles to the playoffs this year after assuming the starting job.

The White House says Obama also applauded the Eagles' plan to install wind turbines and solar panels at their stadium to reduce energy consumption. □



In this Dec. 19, 2010, file photo, Philadelphia Eagles' Michael Vick gestures during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game against the New York Giants at New Meadowlands Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. From the Phillies signing Cliff Lee to the Eagles' incredible rally against the Giants to the first-place Flyers in NHL, Philadelphia is the epicenter of the sports world these days.

Associated Press

THE CINEMAS thecinemas.aw

Valid till Dec 22

SP = subtítulos en Español

AT RENAISSANCE	AT PASEO HERENCIA
BLACK SWAN daily: 6:00 - 8:30 NEW matinee: 1:00 - 3:30 R late show: 11:00	BLACK SWAN daily: 6:00 - 8:30 - 11:00 NEW matinee: 1:00 - 3:30 R late show:
NEVER LET ME GO daily: 6:45 - 9:00 NEW matinee: R late show: 11:15	MEGA MINDY 2 daily: 4:15 NEW matinee: 12:15 - 2:15 PG late show:
NARNIA "THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER" daily: 5:15 - 8:00 SP matinee: 12:00 - 2:45 PG late show: 11:00	NARNIA "THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER" daily: 5:30 - 8:00 SP matinee: 12:30 - 3:00 PG late show: 11:00
FASTER daily: 6:15 - 8:45 R matinee: 1:15 - 3:45 R late show: 11:15	THE TOURIST daily: 6:15 - 8:45 PG-13 matinee: 12:45 - 3:30 late show: 11:15
MEGAMIND 3D daily: 4:45 SP matinee: 12:15 - 2:30 PG late show:	FASTER daily: 4:00 - 6:30 - 9:00 R matinee: 1:30 late show: 11:30
JACKASS daily: 7:00 - 9:15 R matinee: R late show: 11:30	LOVE AND OTHER DRUGS daily: 6:15 - 8:45 R matinee: 12:45 - 3:30 late show: 11:15
LOVE RANCH daily: 4:00 R matinee: 1:30 R ate show:	BURLESQUE daily: 6:15 - 8:45 SP matinee: PG-13 late show: 11:15
THE TOURIST daily: 6:00 - 8:30 PG-13 matinee: 1:00 - 3:30 late show: 11:00	

BUY YOUR TICKET ONLINE FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.THECINEMAS.AW

Matinee: sat - sun | Late show: fri & sat

NHL Roundup

Karlsson double leads Senators over Penguins



The Associated Press
OTTAWA (AP) — Erik Karlsson's two goals and an assist led the Ottawa Senators to a 3-1 win over Pittsburgh on Sunday night, despite Penguins star Sidney Crosby extending his points streak to 24 games. Jason Spezza also scored three points for Ottawa, but left in the second with an upper-body injury. Crosby's 30th goal spoiled Brian

Elliott's shutout bid. But Crosby, the NHL's leading scorer with 61 points, also conceded a couple of costly penalties. Mike Fisher scored the first of Ottawa's two power-play goals midway through the first after Crosby was sent off for hooking. Karlsson made it 2-0 at 13:42 during a delayed slashing call against Crosby, who also hooked Chris Phillips late in the second to negate a

Penguins power play. Elliott turned aside 44 shots, including 22 in the second period, as Ottawa won consecutive games for the first time since a season-high four-game winning streak in early November. Marc-Andre Fleury made 21 saves for Pittsburgh, which had won 16 of 18, including three in a row.

Capitals 3, Hurricanes 2

In Raleigh, North Carolina, Alex Ovechkin ended an eight-game drought without a goal and added an assist for Washington, which held on for the win.

Mathieu Perreault and David Steckel also scored for the Capitals.

They have won three of four and swept the Hurricanes on their home ice for the first time since the 1997-98 season. Tuomo Ruutu and Jussi Jokinen each had a goal and an assist, and Cam Ward made 27 saves for the Hurricanes. Carolina has lost three straight in regulation for the first time this season.

Blackhawks 4, Blue Jackets 1

In Chicago, Patrick Sharp scored two goals and Marty Turco made 26 saves to lead the Blackhawks to their fourth straight win.

Turco lost a bid for his second shutout this season when Derick Brassard scored on a screened power-play goal with 2:26 left in the third period.

Tomas Kopecky and Dave Bolland also scored for Chicago, which has allowed just five goals during its winning streak.

Star forward Marian Hossa returned after missing 10 games with a lower body injury and assisted on Chicago's first two goals.

Lightning 3, Thrashers 2, OT

In Atlanta, Vincent Lecavalier's

second goal of the game — a power-play 1:13 into overtime — gave Tampa Bay victory.

Steven Stamkos also scored his 28th goal for the Lightning, who have won two straight and six of seven. Lecavalier has six goals this season and three in two games.

Zach Bogosian and Fredrik Modin scored for the Thrashers. Ondrej Pavelec made 31 saves.

The Lightning have won nine straight against Atlanta, including four this season over their Southeast Division rival.

Red Wings 4, Wild 1

In St. Paul, Minnesota, Henrik Zetterberg scored a goal and an assist to power the Red Wings to victory.

Daniel Cleary, Kris Draper and Tomas Holmstrom also scored for Detroit, which won for just the second time in five games.

Brent Burns had a late power-play goal for Minnesota, which lost for the first time in four games.

Coyotes 1, Stars 0

In Dallas, Jason LaBarbera stopped 29 shots for his fifth career shutout and Kyle Turris scored in the second period, leading Phoenix to the win.

LaBarbera was making his fifth straight start in place of Coyotes No. 1 goalie Ilya Bryzgalov, who is out because of a lower-body injury.

The goaltender, who had surrendered 15 goals over his previous four starts, turned aside a penalty shot by Loui Eriksson in the second period.

The Stars pulled goalie Kari Lehtonen for an extra attacker with 1:32 left, but Eriksson missed the net on a close-range attempt.

Continued on Page B8



Duke's Nolan Smith (2) drives to the basket as Elon's Chris Long defends during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game in Durham, N.C., Monday, Dec. 20, 2010.

Associated Press

Duke back to unanimous No. 1 in AP Top 25

By The Associated Press

Duke is again a unanimous No. 1 in The Associated Press Top 25.

The Blue Devils, who have been on top of the poll all season, received all the first-place votes from the 65-member nationwide media panel Monday. Duke's three-week run as a unanimous choice fell one vote short last week, when Ohio State received a first-place vote.

Ohio State, Kansas, Connecticut, Syracuse, Pittsburgh, San Diego State and Villanova held second through eighth. Georgetown and Missouri flipped ninth and 10th.

No. 22 Louisville, No. 24 Vanderbilt and No. 25 Temple move into the rankings, replacing Baylor, which was 15th, Tennessee, which was 19th, and Florida, which was No. 20.

Louisville and Temple were both ranked earlier this season while Vanderbilt moves in for the first time since last season. □

Doping scandals mar cycling year _ again

SAMUEL PETREQUIN

AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — In many ways, cycling's year was summed up by two key days. The first was when Alberto Contador took the Tour de France lead with a clever attack on a steep uphill climb in the Pyrenees. The other came just 48 hours later, when drug testers took a urine sample from the future Tour winner that contained traces of a banned substance.

In what was regarded as the defining moment of the Tour, Contador's attack helped him drop runner-up Andy Schleck in the very tough climb of the Port de Bales during stage 15.

Schleck actually attacked first, but his chain came off and the three-time Tour winner sped ahead — taking the yellow jersey from his Luxembourg rival and gaining a 39-second advantage that would become his exact margin of overall victory a few days later on the Champs Elysees.

Many observers criticized the move, saying Contador had broken the sport's unwritten rule about not taking advantage of unlucky breaks a rider can't control — especially when he was wearing yellow.

The epic battle between Contador and Schleck during arguably the most thrilling Tour since Lance Armstrong won the fifth of his record-seven titles in 2003 at the expense of Jan Ullrich, was widely seen as the birth of a new great rivalry.

Fans and pundits cheered for the two champs and were bracing for a mouthwatering new era for a sport still reeling from years and

years of doping scandals. But the celebrations didn't last for Contador.

Only two months after triumphing in the heat of the French summer, the news broke that Contador, who also won the Tours of Spain and Italy in 2008, had been provisionally suspended by cycling's governing body after small amounts of the banned muscle-building and fat-burning drug clenbuterol were found in one of his Tour samples.

It later emerged that a urine sample taken from Contador also showed abnormally high levels of plastic residues that could indicate he received a transfusion of his own blood during the race.

A tearful Contador denied everything, claiming his positive test resulted from eating contaminated meat. Whether or not he is eventually convicted of doping, great harm was done.

If Tour officials do strip his title, Contador would be just the second cyclist to be forced to relinquish it. The first was American Floyd Landis, who was stripped of his 2006 Tour title after a positive test.

UCI president Pat McQuaid continued to claim that cycling is the "cleanest of all sports," while Italy's anti-doping prosecutor Ettore Torri said in October he is convinced that all cyclists are doping.

A decision on whether Contador doped is expected early next year. But WADA and the UCI could appeal if they feel that justice was not done. That means Contador's case could end up with the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Should Contador be

banned, next year's Tour could be deprived of its two most influential figures after Armstrong said last summer's Tour was his last. The American got off to a strong start but blew a tire on cobblestones in stage 3 then failed to recover in time from three crashes during the eighth stage, just before the tough Alpine climbs.

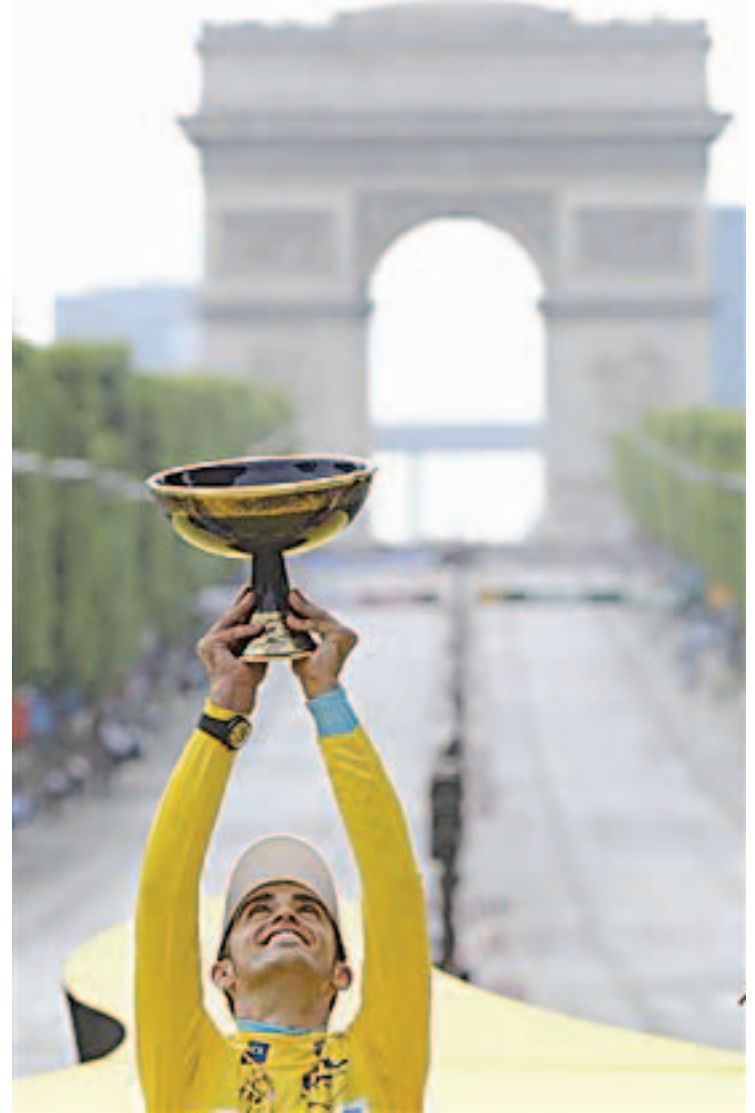
"With the first crash, my body never felt the same after that, and the second was the nail in the coffin," Armstrong said. "So you could look at it like that, and yeah, it was one (Tour) too many."

Armstrong finished in 23rd place, nearly 40 minutes behind Contador. He has not officially retired and will compete in smaller races next season as an ambassador for the fight against cancer.

Armstrong's last ride in the race which made his name and wealth started amid controversy following accusations by Landis, his former teammate, that he had used performance-enhancing drugs to win.

The allegations against Armstrong and others ignited a federal investigation in the United States that reached new heights last month when American agents traveled to France for two days of talks with police officers and other officials from various European countries.

Armstrong has denied using drugs and his lawyers said the investigation is a huge waste of taxpayers' dollars. Despite the years of drug scandals, the Tour de France still attracted massive crowds, worldwide television audiences and reported increased income.



In Luxembourg, a new team found big sponsors and a budget big enough to lure away some of the sport's biggest stars from rival squads.

The new outfit reunites the Schleck brothers and Fabian Cancellara, and their main objective will be victory in the Tour de France.

Cancellara was accused in 2010 of using an electric bike after his wins in the Tour of Flanders and Paris-Roubaix, but nothing was proven. The accusations prompted the UCI to implement bike checks during the Tour, and Cancellara, who was cleared and escaped sanctions, eventually won a fourth time trial world title in September in Australia, where Thor Hushovd

powered to victory in the road race.

Also worth noting in 2010 was Ivan Basso's victory in the Giro d'Italia for his first major title since returning from a two-year doping ban. Several other riders who served doping-related suspensions, including Denmark's Michael Rasmussen and Italy's Riccardo Ricco, are set to return next year.

Ricco, who tested positive for blood-booster CERA at the 2008 Tour de France after winning two stages, signed with the Vacansoleil team.

"I'll just say that the leaders of this team were naive," McQuaid said. "If I am the sports director, Ricco never joins my team." □



Air Force beats Ga. Tech 14-7 in Independence Bowl

By DAVID BRANDT

AP Sports Writer

SHREVEPORT, La. —

The Independence Bowl featured the two best running teams in the nation, and special teams proved to be the unlikely difference.

Air Force cashed in when Georgia Tech muffed a punt in the second half, getting a go-ahead touchdown run from Jared Tew in a 14-7 victory Monday.

Backup kicker Zack Bell converted the first two field-goal attempts of his career before Tew's 3-yard run gave the Falcons (9-4) the lead for good. Air Force's only touchdown came four plays after Daniel McKayhan's second muffed punt of the game.

Georgia Tech's 327 yards rushing per game this season edged Air Force's 317.9 average for the nation's top spot. Both teams use a heavy dose of option, which often catches opponents off guard because it's a relatively rare offense. But with each defense familiar with the scheme, there



Air Force Academy defensive back Jon Davis breaks up a pass intended for Georgia Tech receiver Embry Peeples, right, during the Independence Bowl football game, Monday, Dec. 27, 2010, in Shreveport, La.

were no surprises, and both teams were held under their season rushing average — Georgia Tech with 279 and Air Force with 170.

Air Force's Tim Jefferson completed 11 of 23 passes for 117 yards. Bell's field goals came from 41 and 42 yards.

Georgia Tech's Tevin Washington rushed for 131 yards and Anthony Allen added 91 as Georgia Tech outgained Air Force 320-

287. But the Yellow Jackets committed four turnovers — including three fumbles. Georgia Tech (6-7) came into the game hobbled by injuries, academic casualties and misbehavior. Joshua Nesbitt, the ACC's career leading rusher for a quarterback, missed the game because of a broken right arm.

Top receiver Stephen Hill and starting safety Mario Edwards were among four players declared ineligible because of various academic issues.

On Sunday, the Yellow Jackets announced that three players — including defensive end Anthony Egbuniwe and defensive backs Michael Peterson and Louis Young — would miss the first half because of a curfew violation.

Even with all those issues, Georgia Tech probably would have won if not for the turnovers. Instead, the Yellow Jackets dropped their sixth consecutive bowl and posted their first losing season in 14 years. □

Associated Press

NHL ROUNDUP

Continued from Page B6

Blues 2, Predators 0

In St. Louis, Jaroslav Halak made 32 saves for his fourth shutout and David Backes scored twice, sending St. Louis to its third consecutive win.

Halak, who came to the Blues in an offseason trade with Montreal, has been in goal for each game during the winning streak. Sunday's shutout was the 13th of his career.

Pekka Rinne stopped 24 shots for Nashville, which has lost four straight. The Predators have scored just three goals during the slide.

Maple Leafs 4, Devils 1

In Newark, New Jersey, Jonas Gustavsson stopped 29 shots, Colby Armstrong scored two goals and Toronto ended a three-game losing streak.

The Devils (9-24-2), who have the fewest points in the NHL, have lost five straight and 10 of 11 this month. New Jersey is 0-2 since Jacques Lemaire replaced John MacLean and began his third stint as Devils coach.

John Mitchell and Nikolai Kulemin also scored for the Maple Leafs, who are 10 points ahead of the last-place Devils.

Islanders 4, Canadiens 1

In Uniondale, New York, Dwayne Roloson stopped 37 shots, and the Islanders stretched their winning streak to three.

Blake Comeau, Michael Grabner, P.A. Parenteau and James Wisniewski scored for the Islanders, who tied their longest winning streak of the season and extended their point streak to five games (4-0-1).

New York (9-18-6) moved four points ahead of New Jersey, which has the fewest points in the NHL.

The announced attendance was only 3,136 on a snowy night on Long Island. Newsday reported on its website that the NHL turned down the requests of the Islanders and Nassau County to postpone the game.

Tomas Plekanec scored Montreal's only goal. Carey Price made 21 saves.

Kings 4, Ducks 1

In Los Angeles, Dustin Brown scored a goal and an assist after getting flattened by a punch, as the Kings beat the Ducks in the second installment of the "Freeway Faceoff."

Wayne Simmonds, Anze Kopitar and Justin Williams also scored against Jonas Hiller, who stopped 19 of 23 shots. He was replaced

with 2:03 left in the second period by Curtis McElhinney after Brown's power-play goal made it 4-1.

Matt Beleskey, playing his first game with the Ducks since Dec. 7 after being recalled from Syracuse of the AHL, scored Anaheim's goal. In the first period, he sent Brown to the ice with an uppercut to the face after the Kings captain got a little too close to Hiller as he froze the puck in the crease.

Canucks 3, Oilers 2

In Vancouver, Kevin Bieksa's goal with 24 seconds left gave the Canucks the victory. Alex Burrows sent a long pass from behind the net to the point where Bieksa fired it past screened goalie Nikolai Khabibulin.

The Canucks earned their 11th win in 14 games. They have not lost in regulation since Dec. 5 against St. Louis. Jeff Tambellini and Mikael Samuelsson also scored for Vancouver.

Ryan O'Marra netted his first NHL goal, and Ryan Whitney also scored for the Oilers, who are winless in three meetings with Vancouver this season. □

R&B singer Teena Marie dies at 54



LOS ANGELES – R&B singer and songwriter Teena Marie, best known for the hit 1980s singles “Lovergirl” and “Ooo La La La,” died at her home in Los Angeles on Sunday, according to news reports. She was 54.

The cause of death was not known, and a spokeswoman was not immediately available for comment. Her friend, percussionist Sheila E, reported on Twitter that Teena Marie had a history of seizures.

Teena Marie, whose real name was Mary Brockert, was one of the rare white performers to enjoy crossover success on America’s black music charts.

A protégée of funk singer Rick James, she signed with Motown Records in 1975 and released her first album four years later. That album, which was mostly written by James, led fans to believe that Teena Marie was black since it did not feature a picture of her. Her duet with James on “I’m a Sucker For You” peaked at No. 8 on Billboard’s Black Singles chart. “I’ve always been accepted by the black community and I think that’s a beautiful thing,” Teena Marie told Jet magazine in 2006.

She released 13 albums up to 2009’s “Conga Square,” on which she paid tribute to jazz influences, such as Sarah Vaughan and Billie Holiday.

Teena Marie’s career had been on the upswing since 2004 when she signed with a New Orleans rap label and released her first album in a decade. “La Dona” debuted and peaked at No. 6 on the Billboard 200, the first time she had ever cracked the top 20. A song from the album, “Still in Love,” took her onto the Hot 100 singles chart for the first time since 1988.

Two of her albums, 1981’s “It Must Be Magic” and 1984’s “Starchild,” went gold for U.S. shipments in excess of 500,000 units each, according to the Recording Industry Association of America. The latter album, released after she left Motown in the wake of a legal battle, spawned the tune “Lovergirl,” which hit No. 4 on the Hot 100. “Ooo La La La,” meanwhile, went to No. 1 on the black singles chart in 1988. □

Kylie Minogue defends racy ‘All the Lovers’ video



MADRID – Australian pop star Kylie Minogue on Monday defended a racy music video which has been banned in several Asian nations, telling a Spanish television station it was “touching and sensual”.

In the video for “All the Lovers”, the first single from her 11th album “Aphrodite”, the 42-year-old appears dressed in white at the top of a pyramid of scantily clad young gay and straight couples who kiss passionately.

Television stations in several Asian nations, including Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia, have censored the video, which ends with Minogue releasing a white

dove into the air.

“I think yes its sexy but I also think its very touching and sensual and the message is love,” the singer said when asked about the controversy during an interview with Spanish private television station Cuatro.

Minogue, who has been dating 32-year-old Spanish model Andres Velencoso since 2008 and is a frequent visitor to Spain, also thanked fans for their support during her successful battle with breast cancer. “I had a lot of support from around the world from the public, a lot of it which I did not see, which I did not hear, but I felt it,” she said.

“And it might sound a bit cosmic or whatever but in that kind of situation you need to reach for any positivity that you can get and I really felt people’s good wishes, so thank you.”

In May 2005 she announced she had been diagnosed with the early stages of breast cancer. She underwent surgery and had successful treatment for the illness.

Minogue made her name as a star of the long-running Australian soap opera “Neighbours” before launching her singing career with hits such as “I Should Be So Lucky” and “Better the Devil You Know.” □

Alanis Morissette gives birth to a baby boy

NEW YORK – It’s a boy for Alanis Morissette and Mario “Souleye” Treadway. A representative for the 36-year-old singer said in an e-mail Monday that Ever Imre Morissette-Treadway was born Dec. 25. The e-mail says “all are healthy and happy.” No other details were available. Morissette, whose songs include “Ironic” and “You Oughta Know,” has won several Grammys, including album of the year for 1995’s “Jagged Little Pill.” She also earned a Golden Globe nomination for best original motion picture song for “Wunderkind” from “The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe,” and appeared as God in Kevin Smith’s 1999 film “Dogma.” □



Skype CEO offers apology, credit for Wednesday's outage



After a daylong outage that left untold millions of Skype users high and dry, the CEO of the peer-to-peer chat service apologized, promised that service is slowly but surely being restored, and announced that credits may be in the offing for paying users. The root cause of Wednesday's massive Skype failure is still

a mystery, however.

In a blog post and in a just-posted YouTube video, Skype CEO Tony Bates said that as of Thursday morning, about 16.5 million users were back online still only about 80 percent of the number you'd normally expect to see using Skype on a given weekday morning, but greatly improved

from Wednesday, when as few as 1.6 million users were connected.

Bates said that Skype's "core services," such as audio, video and text chat, had been "stabilized" after engineers rejiggered a series of servers to act as "supernodes," or Skype clients that help one Skype user locate and connect to another.

That's the good news. The bad news is that Skype engineers ended up repurposing some servers used for other Skype features namely group video chat and offline instant messaging to shore up the "core" video and audio chat services. For now, that means anyone hoping to engage in group video chat or send offline IMs is out of luck.

Bates then apologized for the meltdown, the worst at Skype since 2007, when Skype users were left without Skype chat for two days. That outage was later traced to a "massive" number of Skype-connected PCs rebooting in unison after

Microsoft issued an unusually large number of Windows patches at once.

"We know this has caused a major impact for many of you, and we apologize profusely for this,"

OK, so what caused this latest outage? Bates told TechCrunch that "we haven't ruled anything out."

For now, all we know for sure is that a large number of these so-called supernodes which are really just a bunch of regular Skype desktop clients that act as virtual user directories, helping a Skype client in one far-flung region of the Internet locate another went down en masse early Wednesday. (For a better explanation of how Skype's supernodes work, click right here.) As Bates noted in the YouTube video, Skype engineers were forced to compensate for the lost supernodes by creating their own "mega-supernodes" cobbled together, apparently, using servers that normally handle Skype features like

group video chat and offline IM.

As TechCrunch observes, that's probably just a "short-term solution" until Skype traces the root cause of Wednesday's outage and cooks up a permanent solution. In the meantime, Skype is "investigating" the possibility of offering credits to paying Skype users (yes, many people pay to use Skype for voice calls to regular phone numbers, myself included) whose service was disrupted Wednesday, Bates said, adding that details for issuing the credits still needed to be worked out.

So, what should we do the next time Skype goes down? Resort to communicating, like, face to face or something?

Never fear; PC Magazine has drawn up a list of eight Skype alternatives, including AOL Instant Messenger, Gmail Voice and Video Chat, Windows Live Messenger, and Yahoo!'s own Messenger client. □

Publisher confirms Julian Assange book deal



this book, but I have to," he said. "I have already spent 200,000 pounds for legal costs and I need to defend myself and to keep WikiLeaks afloat."

Assange shot to worldwide prominence on the back of a series of spectacular leaks of classified U.S. material, including the ongoing publication of some 250,000 classified State Department cables.

But with the international attention came international legal problems. The U.K.-bound activist is currently fighting extradition to Sweden, where he faces sex crimes allegations, and has said he fears moves to indict him in the United States on espionage charges. He's previously said that most of his organization's money goes to fighting off legal and technical attacks.

Knopf spokesman Paul Bogaards declined to comment on the specific figures mentioned by Assange, but confirmed that a deal had been in place since "prior to the holidays." Bogaards said Assange was due to deliver his manuscript sometime in 2011. The autobiography's title hasn't been made public. □

LONDON — Wikileaks founder Julian Assange says he's being forced into penning an autobiography to keep his organization from going under. New York publishing house Alfred A. Knopf confirmed Monday that it had struck a deal with the 39-year-old Australian to bring out his autobiography, whose publication date has yet to be determined. Assange, speaking to The Sunday Times, said the deal would bring in more than \$1 million, with \$800,000 from Knopf and another 325,000 pounds (\$500,000) from U.K. publisher Canongate. But he said he only agreed to it because he was under financial pressure.

"I don't want to write

Hactivism Could Escalate Security Problems in 2011

As IBM predicts information-technology innovations, The Wall Street Journal offers Walt Mossberg's best products of 2010 list, the Financial Times names Apple CEO Steve Jobs Person of the Year, and so on, some security researchers are turning their eye toward 2011.

Indeed, security issues plagued the high-tech industry in 2010. From the infamous WikiLeaks issues to Google hacks from China to social-media attacks to mobile-device threats and beyond, 2010 was a year to remember for security researchers.

But what will 2011 bring? More of the same. Much more, said Paul Henry, a security analyst at Lumension. Read on to learn about some of the top security predictions for 2011. (It's not all bad news.) Beware of State-Sponsored Crime

The year 2010 in security all started with China and the Google hacks. Remember? What drama! More recently,



we watched the Stuxnet state-sponsored malware attack wreak havoc on Microsoft users. More drama. The lesson? It's no longer your disgruntled employee or even the opportunistic hacker simply taking advantage of a chink in your armor that you need to worry about.

"Your disgruntled employee and opportunistic hackers have limited budgets and resources, while today's state-sponsored threat comes with unlimited resources. After all, they print the money," Henry said. "The increased risks associated with state-sponsored cybercrime require more diligence."

More Social-Media Malware With Facebook reportedly

planning to vie for LinkedIn's audience, the risk of exposing personal information continues to grow. As Henry sees it, it's hard to believe that the companies that proved they could not be trusted with the simplest of information now want to host our resumes.

"As social media expands to contain more personal information, so does the risk that this very same information will be used in more effective spear phishing-like attacks," Henry said. "By expanding the information we are placing on social web sites, we are making the job of social engineering easier for the bad guys." □

BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Global stocks dip, oil down after China rate rise

NEW YORK – China's Christmas Day interest rate rise and a severe blizzard that blanketed the northeastern United States left U.S. share prices weak and the U.S. dollar lower in thinly traded markets on Monday.

The December 25 rate increase by the People's Bank of China was the second in just over two months, and while the timing just before year-end may have been a surprise, the move itself was not. European stock markets fell in response to China's move, although with the UK on holiday until Wednesday, trading activity was limited.

Global share prices were mostly lower on Monday but are still hovering near highs of more than two years. Commodity prices were mixed, with oil off a 26-month peak, gold down marginally but grain prices generally stronger.

The euro rose to its best levels in a week against the greenback.

Shanghai's benchmark stock index fell 1.9 percent on the day, down 15.127 percent year-to-date

as investors have been anticipating tighter lending policies by the central bank in an effort to slow rising inflation. "In the long run, this is going to be healthy for the Chinese economy, but the instinctive market reaction is that this is going to be bad for global demand, giving investors a reason to sell off equities," said Quincy Krosby, market strategist with Prudential Financial in Newark, New Jersey.

In mid-morning New

York trade, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 29.40 points, or 0.25 percent, at 11,544.09. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index lost 1.07 points, or 0.09 percent, at 1,255.70. The Nasdaq Composite Index dropped 8.24 points, or 0.31 percent, at 2,657.36.

In Europe, the FTSEurofirst 300 ended 0.87 percent lower at 1,137.49.

The MSCI index of Asian stocks outside Japan rose 0.04 percent with Japan's Nikkei closing up 0.75 percent, extending its recent outperformance in Asia.

The MSCI All Country World index dipped 0.21 percent, and the Thomson Reuters global stock index lost 0.26 percent.

China's central bank said on Saturday it would raise the benchmark lending rate by 25 basis points to 5.81 percent and lift the benchmark deposit rate by 25 basis points to 2.75 percent.

On Monday the PBOC took aim at inflation once again by saying prudent monetary policy would be helpful in combating price pressures and asset bubbles.

EURO GAINS

The normally thin post-holiday trading was made more so by a severe blizzard that shut down some commuter transport networks, forcing New York trading desks to operate with skeletal staffing.

The euro rose after shaking off losses below its 200-day moving average \$1.3087, according to Reuters data. A move below that level is usually indicative of more losses. While fears that a euro-zone debt crisis could



spread have pushed the euro below the 200-day moving average in five of the last six sessions, it has rebounded swiftly each time. It was last up 0.15 percent at \$1.3135.

"With no economic news, we're focusing on these technical factors, and that push above the 200-day average has been a catalyst for the euro," said Omer Esiner, strategist at Commonwealth Foreign Exchange in Washington. "And with London off and the blizzard in New York, things are very subdued."

The dollar rose 0.07 against the yen at 82.92, after dropping to a three-week low in Asian trading hours. The Australian dollar fell as low as \$0.9987, though it clawed back to \$1.0025, nearly flat on the day. The currency hit a six-week high of \$1.0067 last week. U.S. Treasuries prices trimmed losses after the auction of \$35 billion in two-year notes at 1 p.m. (1800 GMT).

Benchmark 10-year notes reversed course to trade

1/32 of a point in higher price, pushing the yield down to 3.39 percent.

Oil prices pulled back from a 26-month high in light

of China's action, which countered the influence of severe cold weather in the United States and Europe. □

FOR SALE



Malmok villa

370 Great villa across the ocean! 2 beds, 2 baths, apartment, garden, unique opportunity!
US \$ 849.000



Mazurka Villa

729 well appointed villa, 4 beds, 3 baths, new kitchen, pool, tropical garden. Ready to move in.
US \$ 450.000



Mahuma home

719 Brand-new house, close to town, 3 beds, 2 baths, maids room, fully equipped kitchen.
US \$ 280.000

We wish you a wonderful holiday season!



ARUBA REALTY

J.E. Irausquin Blvd. 12
Phone (297) 588-7781
Www.coldwellbanker.aw



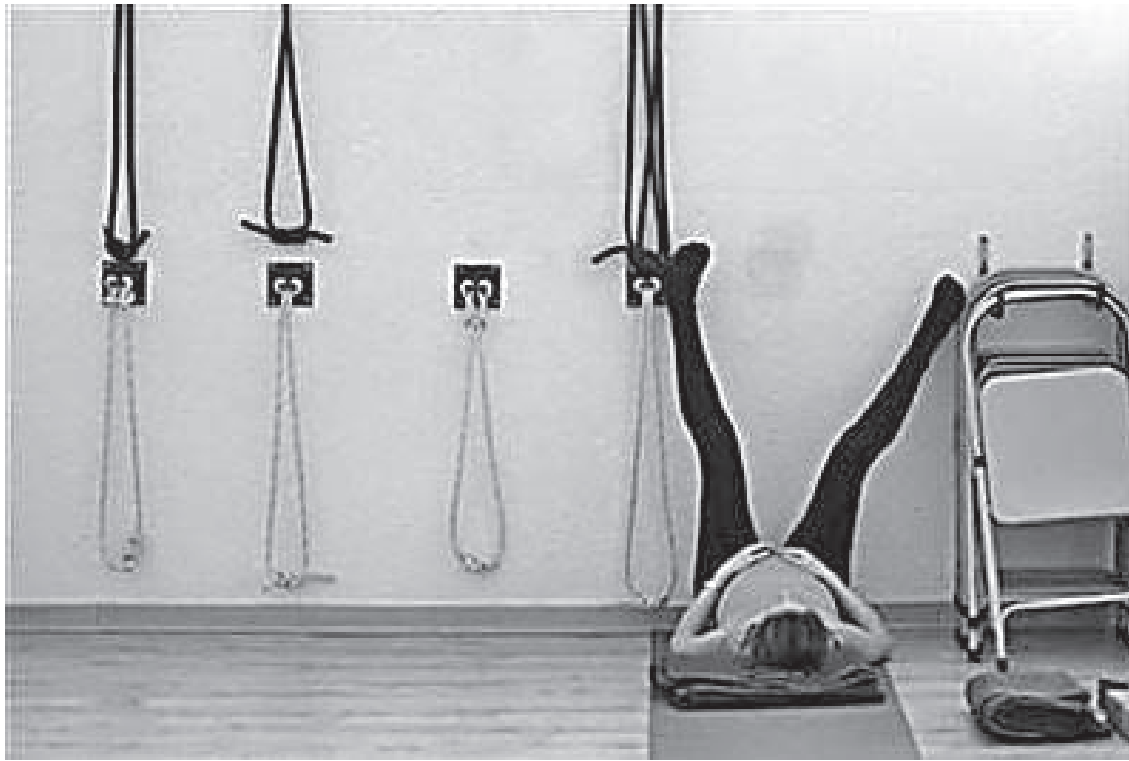
Exercise may help limit pregnancy weight gain

NEW YORK – Being physically active while pregnant may help women gain a little bit less weight, according to a new review of recent research.

Pooling the results of 12 studies, researchers in Munich, Germany, found that women who exercised while pregnant gained an average of 1.3 fewer pounds than women who didn't.

That alone is probably not much of an incentive for women who are considering exercising while pregnant, but there are other reasons to do it, said Dr. Michael Kramer of McGill University in Montreal who reviewed the findings for Reuters Health.

Research shows that exercise can have positive effects on mood and insulin sensitivity in people overall, and appears to have no negative effects on women during pregnancy, noted Kramer, who is also scientific director of the Institute of Human Development,



Child and Youth Health at the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

Exercise can also help women maintain their pre-pregnancy conditioning.

“Women who have been physically active can continue, and women who haven't can start,” Kramer said. “But they shouldn't expect major outcomes for

them or their baby.” Women who gain too much weight in pregnancy are at risk of a number of problems, including diabetes, high blood pressure, and labor complications.

A recent study also found that women who gained more weight during pregnancy gave birth to heavier babies, who in turn are themselves more likely to become obese adults. They also may be more prone to cancer, allergies, and asthma.

To investigate if exercise programs help women avoid the trouble that comes from too much weight gain, Ina Streuling of the Ludwig-Maximilians University of Munich and colleagues reviewed data from 12 studies that looked at the effect of an exercise intervention on women during pregnancy. Collectively, the studies compared more than 1,000 women, some of whom were

randomly assigned to follow an exercise program.

The programs encouraged women to exercise approximately three times per week, up to one hour of aerobics, running, biking or muscle strengthening, starting in the first or second trimester. The studies did not uniformly show that exercise was associated with less weight gain in pregnancy, but overall, the data trend in that direction, said Kramer, who was not involved in the research review.

And some women lost more than the average of 1.3 pounds, Streuling told Reuters Health specifically, women who were overweight or obese before pregnancy.

“To prevent high (weight gain), pregnant women should be physically active,” Streuling noted in an e-mail to Reuters Health.

The findings appear in the pregnancy journal BJOG.

They performed another analysis that included studies that combined physical activity and dietary counseling, and found women who followed this program gained almost three pounds less while pregnant. Kramer co-authored a recent study that also reviewed previous research about the effect of exercise on pregnancy. That study “essentially found the same thing,” but the results were too weak to rule out whether the trend could have been due to random chance, not a true effect of exercise on pregnancy, Kramer noted.

It's not hugely surprising that exercise alone would have only a small impact on weight gain in pregnancy, he explained what really matters is not only how much women work out, but also how much they eat. “If you do a lot of exercise, you're going to get hungrier. So unless you cut down on what you eat, you're not going to lose weight.”

In addition, not all of the included studies were of high quality, Streuling noted, and some women not assigned to the exercise program may have been overall more active in their daily lives, which may also help explain why exercise appeared to have little effect on weight in pregnancy.

Even if exercise is generally safe in pregnancy, extreme contact sports and other intense exercise such as marathons and the Iron Man are probably not a good idea, added Kramer. □

ARUBA VILLA RENTALS is now offering properties FOR SALE: great deals & fabulous prices!

<p>Perfectly located modern 5 family apartment building. GREAT INVESTMENT! Huge 2 BDR/2BA apartments. Owner needs to sell. Now only \$649,000! No reasonable offer refused!</p>	<p>Walk to Marriott & beaches! 3 BDR HOME in upscale neighbourhood. Possibilities for expansion or apartments. MUST SELL! REDUCED to \$329,000. All offers considered!</p>


ARUBA VILLA RENTALS
 Everything from simple **guestrooms** to **luxurious Villas!**
 By the week, month or year.
Phone: 586-8800 or 586-4290.
www.ArubaVillaRentals.com – www.absolutearuba.com
 Ask about our other properties for sale. All our listings are carefully selected

KEEP ARUBA CLEAN...
 THANKS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION

Classified

Bon Dia Aruba Weststraat 22 - Tel:5827800 - Fax:5827044

Doctor on duty
ORANJESTAD
 Dr. C. van Horenbeek
SAN NICOLAAS



FOR SALE BY OWNER
 wk 50 ocean front Rm 208C one br late Dec.\$3650 and ground floor unit 105C, wk 49 fri \$3300 all amenities plus mf
 Email: rmwjmw@aol.com or phone US 508-651-0016 other units available for sale
 191078

VACATION SPECIAL FOR RENT
 Aruba Beach Club
 wk 1 Jan 1-8 \$700
 wk 2 Jan 8-15 \$600
 4 persona inf.
 583-4403 / 560-3297 191308




"FAVI FUNDACION CU VISION"
 191067

FOR SALE Renaissance Ocean Front
 week 49 unit 2146 \$8500
 call 583-6000 ext 2505 in USA after 1/17/11
 call 732-656-3176
 191067

ARUBA VACATION PARK
 Safest and exclusive Vacation park
 With automatic barrier
own swimming pool
FOR RENT
 By week, month or year fully furnished, wifi internet
Apartments VILLAS
 Starting at US \$ 703 p/week
Now you can BUY your own VILLA or Condominium on Aruba
 Designs are ready
So please contact us for more Information tel. 585 0550

Pharmacy on duty
 Oranjestad:
 Botica Fergusonstraat
 San Nicolaas:
 Botica San Lucas



Police
 No. di Polis 581-1100
 Oranjestad 582-4000
 Noord 587-0009
 Sta. Cruz 585-4710
 Savaneta 584-7000
 San Nicolas 584-5000

ASSOCIATED REALTORS FOR SALE
 Nice two storey house with 3 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms situated at Pos Abao 28-A in Noord with pool/jacuzzi, on 923 m2 of land, priced at \$278,000.00 for a quick sale.
 Call Mito at 593-6318 for more information
 191302

FOR SALE Tropicana Aruba Resort
 wk 1 + 2 one bedroom - king pool side
 \$6000 per week both wk \$10,000
 Ph Divi Village Rm 5302
 E-mail: calhopf@yahoo.com
 191085

FOR SALE Casa del Mar
 week 1, Presidential #1313, sleeps 6, partial ocean view \$25,000.00
 e-mail: jkoon2@gmail.com
 189971

STUDIO WEEK 52 FOR RENT OR SALE
 Divi Village Golf Resort Beautiful
 Ocean and pool view. Phone (297) 564-2686
 e-mail: z3837@yahoo.de
 191080

Emergency Numbers



Emergencia 911
 Polis 100
 Brandweer 115
 Brandweer II 582-1108
 Tipline di Polis 11141
 Hospital 587-4300

FOR RENT COSTA LINDA
 2 bedrooms
 2 bath & small kitchenette
 Jan 1-Jan 7
 \$200.00 per night
 call Michael 583-8000
 Unit 2036
 191092A

FOR SALE OR RENT Presidents
 wks 2012 Marriott Surf Club 3 bdr, 3 bath
 Timeshare much better than Marriott asking price
 e-mail: joecov1@aol.com
 191069a

FOR SALE Casa del Mar
 week 51, 2 Br - OV \$29,000
 credenbaugh@yahoo.com
 191090

FOR RENT Costa Linda
 wks 51 +52
 2 Br Timeshare
 e-mail joecov1@aol.com
 191069

Oranjestad
 Ambulance 582-1234
 Police station 582-4000

San Nicolas
 Ambulance 584-5050
 Police station 584-5000
 BGD San Nicolas 584-1606
 Valero Security 584-1720

MARRIOTT OCEAN CLUB FOR RENT
 week 51&52, Dec18/2011-Jan 1/2012
 2 Br, 2 Ba Ocean view, \$8995,00
 Contact: Aruba Beach Club Rm 145 unit
 Jan 9/2011 after Jan 9 USA 516-625-1996
 E-mail blevinem@aol.com
 191095

FOR SALE X-mas wk at Marriott Surf Club
 spectacular ocean view apt 2 bedroom, 2 bath incredible kitchen sleeps 6
 Price \$45,000
 Contact (297) 586-4231
 189998

Time Share Resales
always your best option

Marriott Ocean Club	
1Br wk 51-17 Platinum O.V.	\$15000
1Br wk 51-17 Platinum O.F.	\$25000
2Br wk 51-17 Platinum O.V.	\$25000
2Br wk 51-17 Platinum O.F.	\$45000
Marriott Surf Club	
2Br wk 51 Platinum Plus O.View	\$45000
2Br wk 52 Platinum Plus O.View	\$50000
2Br wk 51 Platinum Plus O.Side	\$45000
2Br wk 52 Platinum Plus O.Side	\$55000
2Br Wk 51 Platinum Plus O.Front	\$60000
2Br. WK 52 Platinum Plus O.Front	\$75000
2Br Platinum G.View	\$21000
2Br Platinum O.View	\$25000
2Br Platinum O.Side	\$35000
2Br Platinum O.Front	\$40000
3Br Platinum O.View	\$45000
La Cabana Raquet Club	
Stu wk 51 room 238B P.O.	\$7000
Stu wk 51 room 416 B P.O.	\$7000
1Br wk 52 room 442 A P.O.	\$12500
2Br wk 52 room 128B/C P.O.	\$22500
Paradise Beach Villas	
1Br wk 51 room 324 P.O.	\$9000
Amsterdam Manor	
2br week 1 true 52 room 213 POV	\$700000
Costa Linda Beach Resort	
2Br wk 50/51 room 3007 P.O.	\$60000 both
2Br wk 51 room 4020 O.V.	\$30000
playa linda	
Stu week 51 and 52 room 402 pool/ocean view	\$35000 both
Casa Del Mar	
2Br week 52 Room 1405 P.O.	
2Br week 01 Room 2021 O.V.	both weeks \$50000
Renaissance siutes	
1Br wk 52 room 2525 P.O. View	\$25000
Divi Links	
1Br wk 52 room 2206 P.V.	\$13000

Many more weeks for sale call:731-2012 or562-0712 Or e-mail me at johnnypaesch@yahoo.com

Services

Elmar	583-3000
Information	118
Kadaster	582-1311
Serlimar	584-6456
Setar	582-5151
Taxi	582-2116
Web	585-4600
Voogdijraad	582-1262
Taxi	587-5900
Bureau Sostenemi	588-1010
Professional Taxi	588-0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587-2300

Cruise Ship



31 Emerald Princess

Funerals

AD Patres	584-2299
Aurora Funeral	588-6699
Mementomori	583-3358
The Olive Tree	584-8888

Foundation Fellowship Clinic
 Tel: 584-6440
 Alcoholism & Drug Addiction, Anonymity guaranteed
Fundacion Anti-Droga
 Aruba (FADA) Tel: 583-2999
Fundacion Respetami
 Tel: 582-4433
Diabetic Foundation
 Arubano
 Tel: 583-3808
Narcotics Anonymous
 Tel: 583-8989
Fundacion Amor pa Prohimo
 Tel: 583-3354 / 586-6976
Womens Defecultice
 Fundation
 Tel: 583-5400

Aruba TODAY
Tel: 582-7800
Fax: 582-7044
Weststraat 22
E-mail
news@arubatoday.com
Website
www.arubatoday.com

I AM LOOKING TO BUY
 At Renaissance Aruba
 week 50,51,52 and 1
 Tel. 583-6000 Ext. 2446
 in USA after 1/5/11
 914-498-2299
 191066

Blizzard of 2010: Has global warming turned Americans into winter wimps?



Atlanta – Maybe it was those warm, snow-bare years and the impression that global warming was in the process of turning Minneapolis into Miami, but what’s with the hyperbolic national reaction to the “snowball express” winter storm of 2010?

The hand-wringing by news anchors up and down the East Coast was on Sunday compounded by the postponement before a

flake of snow had fallen of the Philadelphia Eagles-Minnesota Vikings pro football game, causing Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell to fume: “This is football; football is played in bad weather.”

Yes, the early winter snow storm is a doozy, dropping Christmas snow on parts of the South for the first time since right after the Civil War and wrapping parts of the Northeast in nearly three feet

of snow. Six states declared states of emergency and 4,000 flights were canceled. An A train in Queens got stuck and stranded 500 passengers for seven hours on Sunday.

Home heating 101: six cold facts on staying warm this winter

But to some Americans, the hyperbolic reaction from some quarters including city leaders in Philadelphia seemed a bit, well, overwrought.

“Back in the Day, they didn’t cancel the bivouac at Valley Forge or the War for Independence over a few flakes of snow or a strong breeze,” writes commenter Eephus on Philadelphia Daily News. “Washington crossed the Delaware in worse weather than this. What a nation of quiche eaters we’ve become”

To David Ropeik, a risk assessment expert, it’s simply a matter of what we’ve become accustomed to and recently, that has been mild winters. “Something that’s familiar to us will upset us less and something that’s not familiar

will upset us more,” says Mr. Ropeik, author of “How Risky Is It? Why Our Fears Don’t Always Match the Facts.”

“Degrees on a thermometer or inches of snow all gets interpreted by how that feels to us,” he adds. “This isn’t just ones and zeroes in a computer, but we have to run it through our emotional software.”

In some cases, that could drive anxiety over severe weather and the prospect of holding a massive sporting event amid a blizzard. In others, it could drive a backlash against a “nanny state” that calls off one of America’s most beloved cold-weather rites when too many flakes fly.

“If we’re not a nanny state, then we’ve become a nation of overcautious risk managers, also known as wimps,” writes Will Bunch in the Daily News about the decision to postpone the game.

Scientists say that more extreme weather “not just warming” is at the core of climate change, and that jibes with the fact that many of the

world’s major cities are having colder-than-usual beginnings to the winter.

But scientists have predicted warmer winters two years in a row and gotten it wrong. One potential reason is that preoccupation with warmer ocean temperatures have caused prognosticators to miss other trends, such as the snowpack in Siberia and the complex dynamics of a high pressure oscillation on top of Greenland.

What’s more, Piers Corbyn, a British forecaster who looks primarily at solar activity, sees the last two wintry years as the first phase of a mini-ice age that could be in full swing by 2035. Whatever the meteorological cause and effect of the early snow and cold, risk expert Ropeik warns against reading too much into the response. “We do tend to overemphasize the dread of the moment,” he says. “That’s just human instinct.”

Home heating 101: six cold facts on staying warm this winter

Rocket with Indian satellite explodes after launch

NEW DELHI – A rocket carrying an Indian communication satellite exploded just after liftoff Saturday in the second launch failure for India’s space agency this year.

Television images showed the rocket exploding in smoke and fire just after it launched from the Sriharikota space center in Andhra Pradesh

state. It was carrying a GSAT-5P communication satellite into orbit.

The vehicle developed an error 47 seconds after liftoff and lost command, leading to a higher angle in the flight, said K. Radhakrishnan, chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization.

“That caused a higher stress, breaking up the vehicle,”



Radhakrishnan told reporters. In April, a similar rocket on a developmental flight plunged into the Bay of Bengal. The ISRO said its rotor seized and turbine casing ruptured, probably due to excessive pressure and thermal stresses. Yashpal, a retired Indian scientist and independent commentator, said he was very disappointed by Saturday’s failure, but other countries too have experienced such problems.

“I hope it’s just one of those things,” Yashpal, who uses one name, told reporters.

PURE & SENSUAL
MASSAGE FANTASY

LOOKING FOR COMPANIONSHIP WHILE IN ARUBA

- Service 24 hours
- Special Massage Fantasy
- Out call & in call service
- Private Sailing Trips
- Beautiful Girls
- Serving Men, Women, Couples
- Bachelor Parties for Men & Women
- And much more

Safe Tours to the Red Light District with private guide:
 A 3 hour Tour includes a FREE Bottle of Wine.

CALL: 561-5515

Email: pureandsensual69@yahoo.com
 pimp69daddy@live.com

CALL ANYTIME

Platinum ARUBA

MASSAGE

Open 24 hours
InCall/OutCall

We Pick You Up We Deliver
 Full Service Massage Men - Women - Couples

f Platinum Aruba.

TEL: (297) 567- 5824

HOTEL BACCARA

FROM 9PM TO 5AM

Striptease

THE HOTTEST STRIPCLUB IN DOWNTOWN ARUBA

beautiful latin girls

MUST BE OVER 21 YEARS OLD

AVENIDA ALO TROMP 37
TEL: 7433826

Colombia celebra extensión de beneficios arancelarios en EEUU

BOGOTA (Reuters) - El presidente de Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos, celebró el jueves la renovación de un esquema de preferencias arancelarias en el Congreso de Estados Unidos y dijo que es un gesto especial que sirve de preámbulo para la aprobación de un Tratado de Libre Comercio bilateral.

La extensión por seis semanas de las preferencias arancelarias para Colombia y Ecuador, que vencían el 31 de diciembre, proporciona el tiempo suficiente para que los exportadores de flores de estos países cumplan con los pedidos de Estados Unidos para el día de San Valentín, el 14 de febrero, sin ser afectados.

“Celebrar lo que sucedió ayer (miércoles) en el Senado de Estados Unidos. La última ley que aprobó la actual legislatura -porque a partir del primero de enero entra una nueva legislatura a raíz de las elecciones recientes- fue la extensión de las preferencias arancelarias que goza Colombia en la entrada de sus productos a Estados Unidos”, dijo Santos.

El mandatario consideró que el Congreso de Estados Unidos decidió tratar el caso colombiano como un caso especial. “¿Cuál es el significado de esta aprobación? No es por la extensión de seis semanas, que es muy corto el tiempo, es el hecho de que hayan

aceptado dividir la discusión y tratar el caso colombiano, como un caso especial. Es un gesto del Senado americano con Colombia que agradecemos”, afirmó.

Santos consideró que la prórroga es un buen preámbulo para las conversaciones entre las dos naciones.

“Agradecemos sobremanera. Y además es un buen preámbulo para las discusiones que estamos sosteniendo desde hace ya mucho tiempo en torno a la aprobación del Tratado de Libre Comercio. De manera que eso quisiera celebrarlo”, comentó. Estados Unidos es el mayor socio comercial de Colombia y el principal destino de las exportaciones del país sudamericano. Colombia es beneficiaria del programa de preferencias arancelarias para los países andinos (ATPDEA, por sus siglas en inglés).

El Congreso de Estados Unidos tiene pendiente la aprobación de un Tratado de Libre Comercio con Colombia por cuestionamientos de los demócratas por la violencia contra sindicalistas y defensores de derechos humanos en el país sudamericano. Pese a que el Congreso estadounidense aprobó la renovación para Colombia y Ecuador, permitirá que expiren beneficios similares para cerca de otros 130 países. □



Foto de archivo del presidente de Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos, durante la cumbre de la UNASUR en Georgetown, nov 26 2010. REUTERS/Jorge Silva

Policía colombiana reporta baja de 3,6% en homicidios

BOGOTA (AP) - El número de homicidios en el país cayó 3,6% del 2009 al 2010, cuando se han registrado 15.238 muertes, indicó el lunes la Policía Nacional.

Los homicidios fueron 15.817 el año pasado, de acuerdo con el balance policial.

“Es preocupante que el 37% de los homicidios se deben a riñas e igual manera hay un porcentaje producto de ajustes de cuentas, venganzas personales”, dijo general José Roberto Riaño, director de seguridad ciudadana de la policía nacional.

Todo los casos tienen “relación con la falta de tolerancia social asimismo el 62% de los homicidios son víctimas jóvenes entre 18 a 35 años de edad”, agregó el oficial en entrevista telefónica.

Riaño declinó comentar las causas por las que el número de homicidios contabilizados por el Instituto de Medicina Legal para el 2009 es muy superior al de la policía: 17.717 casos. Adujo que se debía a diferencias “de concepto” y que aunque en el 2010 hubo repuntes de homicidios en ciudades como Medellín, en el segundo semestre la cifra se estabilizó, aunque no ofreció detalles. □

Cuba liberará a otros dos presos políticos

LA HABANA (Reuters) - Cuba liberará próximamente a otros dos presos políticos que aceptaron la propuesta de marcharse a España, como parte de un histórico acuerdo entre la Iglesia y el Gobierno de la isla, dijo el jueves el Arzobispado de La Habana en un comunicado.

La breve nota, que no especifica que los próximos excarcelados no pertenecen al grupo de los 52 disidentes condenados en el 2003 a penas de entre 6 y 28 años, dijo que con estas salidas la cifra de prisioneros que aceptaron el exilio en España llega a 56. “En continuidad con el proceso de liberación de prisioneros, se informa que otros dos serán excarcelados próximamente”, dijo la nota de la Iglesia Católica, que no precisó fechas.

Según un informe de la ilegal pero tolerada Comisión Cubana de Derechos Humanos, los presos políticos que serán liberados cumplían sanciones de 15 y 22 años por delitos que van desde piratería hasta robo con fuerza, pasando

por tenencia ilegal de armas.

A raíz del inusual acuerdo entre la Iglesia Católica y el Gobierno cubano, 41 disidentes del grupo de los 52 fueron liberados a partir de julio. De éstos, 40 aceptaron exiliarse junto a sus familiares, mientras que uno decidió quedarse viviendo en Cuba.

Aún permanecen tras las rejas 11 presos políticos del grupo de los 52 que no aceptan salir del país. También han sido excarcelados y enviados a España algunos presos que no formaban parte de los 52, que integraban un grupo de 75 condenados en el 2003 en un proceso conocido como “Primavera Negra”.

Entre los excarcelados que no forman parte de los 52 hay personas condenadas por actos de terrorismo y piratería.

Las autoridades de la isla también extendieron la oferta del exilio a algunos disidentes en libertad condicional. El Gobierno cubano considera a los disidentes “mercenarios” al servicio de su enemigo Estados Unidos. □

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

From 5 pm - 7 pm
21.95
3-course menu

SALAD OR SOUP OF THE DAY

FILET MIGNON

Famous Argentina Tenderloin, perfectly grilled to your desire

Or

PRIME SIRLOIN STEAK (UNTRIMMED)

Aged and marbled prime sirloin grilled to perfection

Or

GRILLED CHICKEN

Argentine style grilled chicken

Or

GROUPER FILET

Choose for a preparation on the grill or pan fried with Creole or garlic sauce

Or

FETTUCCHINE 'CARBONARA'

Pasta fettuccine in a rich creamy sauce with bacon and chicken

Or

BARBECUE LOIN RIBS

The original ribs grilled and accomplished with our barbecue sauce

FLAN CARAMEL

Or

ICE CREAM

(STAWBERRY, VANILLA OR CHOCOLATE)

All main dishes are served with fresh vegetables, corn on the cob and your choice of baked potato, pan fried potatoes, French fries or rice



www.tangoaruba.com - www.arubawineanddine.com

We accept Visa, Mastercard, Discovery and American Express. All prices are in US dollars and subject to service charge